

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Many parents wonder what they can do to make sure their children are prepared for fifth grade math. The biggest factor for success is the memorization of multiplication and division facts. Students need to be fluent with multiplication facts (0-12) and corresponding division facts. In fifth grade, we need to move quickly into 2 and 3 digit multiplication and long division. Having the basic facts memorized will make it possible for students to be successful with these and other more advance processes. Not having the basic facts memorized will make learning these concepts very difficult.

How can you help your child with math facts?

- Spend just a few minutes each day or a few days a week practicing, rather than long practice sessions.
- Play games with the facts. Try to find ways to make practice fun, including silly rhymes, songs, or memory tricks. Card games, such as multiplication war, are also effective.
- Use time that is usually “wasted” (waiting in line, sitting in traffic) to drill facts.
- Identify the most challenging facts for your child, and spend the most time on those.

All students have also received a multiplication chart for practice at home. All students will take a multiplication fluency assessment on Fridays along with their Friday math assessment. We will begin fluency assessments **Friday, August 19**. The first fluency test will be on facts 0-3.

In addition, children learn a lot from experiencing math in real life situations. Please involve your children as much as possible when you are using math to cook, build, shop, plan, tell time, etc. These experiences help students to develop a real understanding of math beyond numbers and computation.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at [mtorres@hancockschools.net](mailto:mtorres@hancockschools.net) or send a note with your child. I’m looking forward to a great year in fifth grade with wonderful mathematicians!

Your partner in education,

Ms. Torres