

September 2017

Math in Focus

Math in Focus provides an authentic Singapore math curriculum-highlighting problem solving as the focus of mathematic learning. MIF teaches concepts using a concrete-pictorial-abstract learning progression to anchor learning in real-world, hands-on experiences, supported by seamless integration of technology with the use of Interactive Whiteboard activities, online student activities, and online manipulatives.

One thing that is important to note is that we are teaching skills by topic, not chapters. While most of each topic will come from the same chapter, you will notice that parts of other chapters may be mixed in to provide complete coverage of a topic.

White Binder

Every child is required to have a 1 inch, white binder for math. Inside each of their math binders are 4 sections; notes, workbook, extra practice, and paper. At the beginning of each chapter your child will receive most of the papers that they will need for the entire chapter. At the end of each chapter, we will ask that they empty out all papers so that we can move on to the next chapter. This binder should come home each night.

However, as we move towards a more digital classroom, you will notice us using the white binder less and less over time. The goal is to have an almost paperless classroom and utilize our Chromebooks more. Using our learning management system, Canvas, all papers and notes that your child will need will be posted for them to access at any time.

Workbook, Extra Practice, and Reteach Pages

At the beginning of each chapter, I will provide your child with a packet that will contain all of the pages they will need as we move through the chapter. The workbook pages, along with the reteach and extra practice pages, will be used for us to complete practice problems in class and for homework practice.

Homework

Homework will be assigned each night of the week. Homework will always be written in your child's agenda book and posted on my website. Please keep in mind that if your child ever forgets their homework packet at school, the workbook pages can be printed out through Think Central. I do not usually give homework over the weekend, with the exception of studying for an upcoming test. Finally, starting soon they will also receive weekly or monthly fact fluency homework to continue to work on building their fact fluency skills.

Tests

Your child will be given at least one week notice before a test. A week before each test I will send home a *Study for Success* sheet that needs to be handed in the day of the test. This sheet should be filled out throughout the week leading up to the test to help your child stay organized and accountable when preparing for the upcoming test. At the end of the notes section in your child's binder they will have a chapter study guide that can be utilized when studying as well. Most likely we will not get to all of the practice problems in the workbook and reteach sections. These problems would be a good idea for your child to complete when studying. All tests will be sent home for you to review and sign.

Think Central

Think Central is a website that your child has access to throughout the year. On this website your child can view the text book, print out extra workbook pages, and use the online manipulatives. <http://www-review-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do>

IXL

IXL is a web-based program that targets individual skills based on the common core standards. Your child should be receiving their login information shortly. This will be a fantastic resource for your child to work on building their math skills. For further information on IXL please visit the website: <https://www.ixl.com/math/>.

Mobymax

Mobymax is utilized in class as an intervention program to work on filling in the missing gaps. It allows students to work on skills they have yet to master, need review with, or just need a refresher of. Your child should know their login information. Using your child's login information, you can sign-in as a parent to see how your child is doing while working on the program. Any questions, please let me know. <https://www.mobymax.com/signin>

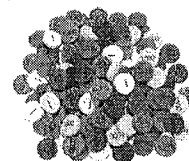
Other Websites:

Thinking Blocks: <http://www.mathplayground.com/thinkingblocks.html>

Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Contact Info:

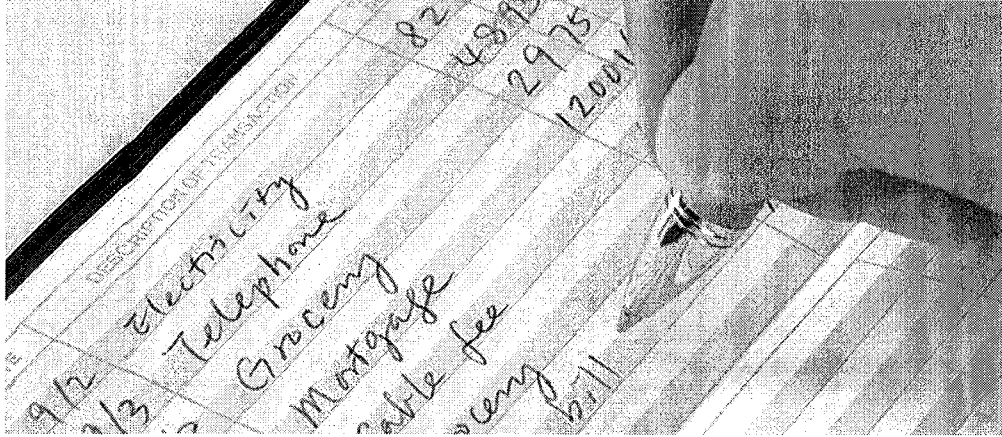
If you have any questions or concerns at any point during the year please contact me at kfeeney@neshaminy.org. Email is the best way to get a hold of me, but feel free to also write a note in your child's agenda book or call me at 215-809-6952.



Simple ways to build math skills at home

How you can help at home: Build your child's math skills with these easy strategies.

by: *GreatSchools Staff* (<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/author/greatschoolsstaff/>) | September 8, 2017



Use these tips to build your child's math skills.

Positive attitude about math

Do you like math or does it make you anxious? Your feelings about math can greatly influence your child's perception of math. Help your child enjoy math by talking about it in a positive manner. Think out loud when you are using math skills so your child will hear your thinking process. Let her know that there are multiple ways to solve problems.

Problem solving with real-world math

Math has evolved from the computation we most likely experienced in math class to an emphasis on problem solving. Computation is still important, but it is used to solve real-life problems. The emphasis is generally on math processes that enable your child to learn multiple strategies to become a proficient problem solver. Model the importance of math in the real world and encourage your child to help when you:

- Balance your checkbook
- Pay bills
- Estimate the cost of the groceries in your cart
- Determine how much food to buy or make for a party
- Double a recipe or cut a recipe in half
- Figure the cost of lunch at a restaurant
- Calculate the cost of school lunch for the week or month
- Determine how long your child will need to save his allowance in order to buy a particular item
- Determine the number of miles driven in X hours
- Determine how long it will take to drive home going X mph
- Figure the cost of X number of minutes of cell phone use if you pay X cents/minutes
- Determine how many gallons of gas you can buy with X dollars
- Determine how many chocolate chips are needed if X number of cookies each has 3 chocolate chips

Games that build number sense

Play games with your child to reinforce number sense. Try Racko by Hasbro. This game involves putting numbered cards in order from greatest to least. Yahtzee is perfect for working on multiplication facts and reinforcing addition skills. There are many fun card and dice games that utilize math skills.

Practice multiplication facts

Your child is expected to know multiplication facts. Have your child bounce a basketball as he says the multiples of different numbers. For example, he can practice the multiples of 9 for each bounce 9, 18, 27, 36. Then he can say them backward: 81, 72, 63, 54. Research shows that kinesthetic movement helps the brain learn facts.

📌 Homework (<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/tag/homework/>)



About the author

GreatSchools Staff (<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/author/greatschoolsstaff/>)

Empowering parents

GreatSchools is the leading national nonprofit empowering parents to unlock educational opportunities for their children. We provide school information and parenting resources to help millions of American families choose the right school, support learning at home, and guide their children to great futures.

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