August 20, 2015

Dear Parents,

In third grade at West Terrace, we expect students to practice their math facts **NIGHTLY** to achieve automaticity and fluency.

“Automaticity of math facts is achieved when a student can directly retrieve the correct answer to a math fact without any intervening thought process (counting up, strategic thinking like doubles, etc.) The development of automaticity is critical so students can concentrate on higher order thinking in math. “

-Educational Research from The Otter Creek Institute

SO HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD PRACTICE THEIR MATH FACTS????

Here are some choices to help with NIGHTLY practice.

* **Flashcards**
* **Verbal Quizzing by an adult or older sibling**
* **Make Your Own Timed Test –** you may use mathfactcafe.com to make a test.
* **Online Practice** 
  + Fun4thebrain.com
  + Sheppardsoftware.com
  + Google “addition and subtraction online games”
* **Xtramath.org**

This is a computer program we are using at school that uses research based practice to increase speed and fluency of math facts. If your child would like to use this method at home, you can register your child for his/her own account at home. Xtramath.org is free on a computer or laptop. **Go to xtramath.org and click on sign up**. You can also purchase the app for $5. PLEASE NOTE: Your child’s school account will be separate from any practice at home. We will choose his/her level for timed tests based on his/her school account.

WILL THERE BE TIMED TESTS?

Each Friday, your child will take a timed test over the math facts on which they are working at school. Timed tests will begin Friday, August 28.

WHAT OPERATION?

While your child is still mastering the addition facts on xtramath.org at school, he/she will take an addition timed test. When they move on to subtraction, they will take a subtraction timed test. The same process will apply for multiplication and division.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Thanks for your support at home!

Mrs. Strawn and Mrs. Allen