

8th Grade Math News

Greetings,

We are off to a great start in math class. The students have been working hard to learn the class procedures. We have new students and as a school community we do everything we can to make this transition a little easier.

You can contact me anytime with questions or concerns. The best way to reach me is by email mmiller@gsschool.org I check my email through out the day and a couple times in the evening. You can also leave me a message at 476-4000 ext 33.

Students learn math concepts at different levels and process information at different speeds. The math class is structured to give every student opportunity for success. Students will learn through some direct instruction, projects, games and partner or group activities. My goal is to have a positive learning environment where every student feels safe to ask questions and explore math concepts.

Some math homework will be given each night. I will try to limit Friday homework; however, it may be necessary when students are working on a long term project. If math anxiety exists I want to help reduce the nervousness. Math homework should not exceed 30 minutes per evening, especially if the student is struggling. If this occurs just write a note explaining the situation and include that the student worked for 30 minutes on the assignment. There is a homework club every day, except Wednesday. I encourage students to take advantage of this service and finish their homework at school

The students have started working in chapter one of the textbook and reviewing concepts learned last year as well as learning some new concepts. We will begin more advanced concepts after the long Labor Day weekend. Some Algebra concepts will need reinforcement outside of class. Students need to remember to take the material step by step and seek answers to the question they have while working through the assignments. I encourage the students to utilize the websites they visited over the summer. There is also a website for the book. It is for the newest edition of the text, but has some useful tools and the chapters are the same material. http://www.classzone.com/cz/books/algebra_1_2007_na/book_home.htm?state=CA

There will also be logic problems posted in class for students to work through. So far, two sixth graders and three eight graders have successfully figured out the question: How many squares are there on a chess board? I was pleased with the enthusiasm of all the students with this question and look forward to seeing their problem solving skills.

The school is selling tickets to the Monte Fireworks Show. It is a great fundraiser. For more information visit the site at <http://www.monte-foundation.com/> The school receives 70% of the ticket sales. You can earn parent points for helping with the selling at the tables after masses at Star of the Sea, St Joseph's, and after school at Good Shepherd. We are also looking for a director of the ticket sales. Contact me if you are interested. You can also check out tickets to sell and your child can earn extra credit points in math for provided a breakdown of percentages and dollar amounts of the ticket sales.

I am very excited for the year.

Mrs. Miller
Math Teacher
Good Shepherd Catholic School