

## Parent/Student Notification

### The Importance of Basic Math Facts

Dear Parents,

My name is Mr. Puett. Ms. Lima and I currently teach the Mathematics curriculum in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at William Lehman Elementary. We are coming to the end of a challenging year. Hopefully, the upcoming school year will be a bit more “traditional”. Thank you for helping us have a successful school year.

We wanted to share with you our thoughts on the importance of memorizing basic facts in Mathematics. Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) grade Math (and beyond) requires fast recall of basic facts. Students lacking these basic facts are more likely to struggle and often find it hard to excel in the subject. Without knowing multiplication tables and division facts (as well as addition and subtraction facts), makes working on more complicated long multiplication and division problems become extremely difficult. Here are a few sample 4<sup>th</sup> grade questions to illustrate....

Sample question 1 from 4<sup>th</sup> grade Chapter 2 (1<sup>st</sup> month of school) **\$4,123 X 6** (multiplication with regrouping)

Sample question 2 from 4<sup>th</sup> grade Chapter 2: **Sharon is 54 inches tall. A tree in her backyard is 5 times as tall as she is. The floor of her treehouse is at a height that is twice as tall as she is. What is the difference, in inches, between the top of the tree and the floor of the treehouse?** (multistep question: Multiply 54 x 5, Multiply 52 x 2, subtract the two products)

Sample question 3 from 4<sup>th</sup> grade Chapter 3: **49 x 87**

These questions are all extremely difficult for students who do not possess fact fluency. We have noticed after many years of teaching Mathematics that students who enter 4<sup>th</sup> grade fluent in their basic facts have a much higher likelihood of earning high grades and test scores than students who are not fluent in their basics. Learning these basic facts is an important part of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Math. If your child is not fluent in his/her basic facts, don't panic, it's not too late- please have him/her work on these facts over the summer. Just 20 minutes a day can make a huge impact on their 4<sup>th</sup> grade success.

There are a number of online tools for students to improve their skills.

- Reflex Math (located in the student portal or by going to [Reflexmath.com](http://Reflexmath.com))

GOAL: 100% Fluency

Other websites for practicing are:

- Multiplication Drag Race

[http://www.arcademics.com/games/grand\\_prix/grand\\_prix.html](http://www.arcademics.com/games/grand_prix/grand_prix.html)

(You can also just Google “Multiplication Drag Race”)

freerice.com

<http://freerice.com/#/multiplication-table/17483>

(There are many more online practice websites. Flashcards and workbooks are also helpful.)

Thank you. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Mr. C. Puett and Ms. C. Lima  
Williamm. Lehman Elementary School

