

Mastery Learning in Math



Dear Parents,

As you may be aware, the mathematics curriculum in 5th grade is very challenging. Performing well in math requires students to learn the basics such as their times tables, how to divide, units of measurement, and fraction concepts. More than that, doing well in math requires students to apply those concepts to real world problems.

With this in mind, I would like to share with you an instructional process that I use in my classroom called “mastery learning.” This method involves giving students a second chance on each and every math test. First, I teach each math concept at a fast pace because some students will grasp the material quickly. Then I give a test to see who has mastered the content. If your child understands the material, I will assign an enrichment activity while I reteach the material in a different way to the other students. The reteaching process may involve tutoring, hands-on activities, small group instruction, and/or homework. These activities and assignments are called “correctives.” After students have completed the corrective work, I will give a retest which will be similar to the first one but with different math problems. I will only record the highest score between the two tests.



How can you help at home? First, you can help by understanding the process and supporting your child when he or she brings home the first test. Think of the first test as a tool to see where your child needs extra practice. Please remember that this test will not count if your child improves on the retest! You can also help by working with your child at home to make sure he or she is ready for the retest. If I send home an assignment, have your child work on it independently and then check it for errors.

Over the years, I have found the Mastery Learning model to be very effective. It allows all students the opportunity to learn important concepts and provides challenges for students who learn quickly. Please sign below to show that you are aware of my use of mastery learning in math, and feel free to contact me if you have questions about the process. Thank you for your support!

Student Name

Parent Signature