

## Ms. Vermeulen's Newsletter

### Common Core

"Common Core, the new way of thinking!" This is something that should be sounding pretty familiar to you by now! Our new math curriculum has been decided and fully implemented within the last couple months. It transitions well into the middle school curriculum (Math Connections), and aligns with Michigan's new Common Core Standards.

Many parents are intimidated by this new way of thinking. Don't be! The best way to help your child is to have them dig deep and think harder! Students are pushed to try different ways, and not to give up. Check out the "tips for solving story problems," resource if this is a struggle for your child on the weebly.

Remember, my weebly has tutorial videos and other resources to help your child. The link is below under "What you can do at home." Comment on the forum and let me know what you would like to see added!

### What's New?

Some parents have been asking how they can help their child stay on track during the summer weeks. I will be providing more information on the weebly, as June quickly approaches, but here are a few ideas for you to think about.

*-Go with your child to the book store, and pick up a book prepping for fifth grade!* There are lots of resources out there, I will do my research and let you know which books can best prepare your students.

*-Visit my Fifth Grade Homework Help Section* Fractions are hit hard in August of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, use some practice sheets to pre-teach your child what may be coming next.

*-Interested in a tutor?* I will provide information on resources for possible free/low cost tutoring for the summer months!

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [avermeulen@lakeorion.k12.mi.us](mailto:avermeulen@lakeorion.k12.mi.us) ☺*

### Highlights of the Month

In Ms. Vermeulen's math classroom, fourth graders have been busy working with fractions!

This unit is so important in fourth grade because of how frequent fractions are used in fifth grade. Students should master simplifying as well as adding/subtracting using a common denominator. This will make the beginning of fifth grade much less stressful for your child.

If your student needs extra practice, please email me and I will get review sheets out to you. I have lots of books filled with worksheets that have your child practice simplifying, finding equivalent fractions, and adding/subtracting fractions. This would also be great practice in the summer weeks as well!

### What you can do at home

- ❖ **Flash cards!** *Multiplication and division flash cards are a great way to help students master their facts. Ask me for a link to free flash cards!*
- ❖ **Review their homework** *Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are often asked to finish their math assignments at home. I have seen a lot of assignments in which students have not tried their personal best.*
- ❖ **Visit my weebly at** <http://avermeulen.weebly.com/>  
*This has lots of tools and resources to help you and your child!*

