

## Ms. Vermeulen's Newsletter

### Get to know Ms. Vermeulen's role in your child's school day

Hello! My name is Alisa Vermeulen and I am the new math support specialist at Carpenter Elementary. I began my position at this school in early September and have begun working with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students both inside and out of their general classroom. I come in twice a week during math time as well as pull students out twice a week to help review concepts.

When I come into the classroom during math, I am simply supporting students so they can better understand the instruction. When I pull out students, they are only gone for a half hour during non direct instruction. I am enjoying helping Carpenter students become more confident in math!

### What's New?

Because both my position and I are new this year, I am constantly making alterations to help better benefit the students and teachers. This month I started a wall "Let's Talk Math," for the students. I have vocabulary, definitions, equations, and helpful hints on construction paper up on the wall, color coated by grade level.

I also have a new website [avermeulen.weebly.com](http://avermeulen.weebly.com) that has homework help as well as parent info. Please visit my website and comment on the forum letting me know what else you would like to see added!

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 with different division strategies just like in their classroom! Similar to the multiplication unit, I often have students practice their least confident method when they are with me, so we can go through the challenges together.

Students have been working as a team to help one another with division problems - each tackling a different strategy. We have also played different division games to help strengthen our understanding. Students have been mastering the vocabulary for division such as, "dividend," "divisor," and "compatible numbers." Vocabulary is essential to math understanding.

### 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!*
- ❖ **Do not allow students to rely on multiplication chart** *Students are having a difficult time completing problems without a chart. Remind your student that a chart won't be available when they need to do math at a store. Try to have them use it only to check their work!*
- ❖ **MobyMax.com**

