

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 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students both inside and out of their general classroom. I come in around 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 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 ☺

Highlights of the Month

In Ms. Vermeulen's math classroom, fifth graders have been busy with operations related to fractions and decimals.

Students and I work together in my room to NOT feel overwhelmed by challenging problems or lots of words. We go through story problems systematically so that we are not stumped after one read-through. They are working hard at reading the problem and going through the steps!

We spend time in my classroom learning new concepts, and other times I work with students fixing old homework. Homework should be seen as PRACTICE. When a homework grade is low, it simply just means a student needs more practice before that concept is mastered. Homework is a crucial part of a math student's success.

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!*
- ❖ **Suggest to do homework in chunks** *The homework this year is often more than just 15 minutes of sitting down at a desk. Allow your student to take breaks instead of finishing it all at once. This might help a lot of the silly errors made at the end of assignments.*

- ❖ **MobyMax.com**

