

## 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 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!

### More about Ms. Vermeulen

As I have mentioned in my previous letter, I graduated Michigan State University in 2012 and then completed my year long internship within Oakland County. I have spent my recent summers at a Rochester Day Camp as well as taking classes or home tutoring.

I grew up and currently live in Shelby Township with my parents and sister. In my spare time I enjoy running, exercising with friends, and shopping. I am very excited to be a part of Lake Orion and Carpenter Elementary!

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, fifth graders have been busy with operations related to fractions and decimals.

Math in 5<sup>th</sup> grade has been moving quickly this year! While students are in my room, we often work on a small packet that breaks down what they are learning in the general classroom into steps. Students are often given different tools such as a place value chart or fraction strips. This helps students better visualize their math problems.

Students in my classroom are encouraged to feel comfortable asking questions. The small group setting makes it more ideal for students to have their questions addressed. Classmates often get the opportunity to help one another to make sure everyone is benefiting from our time together!

### 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 5<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.*
- ❖ **MobyMax.com** *This is a great website to have your students practicing math skills while using technology!*

