



# K-4 Monthly Math Mews

by Dawn Straith

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## Let's Get Back to the Basics

### The Basics about Basic Facts

Basic Facts are the foundation for everything math just as letters and words are the foundation for reading. The basic facts are the easy addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems such as  $12 - 6$  or  $3 \times 4$ . Hillel K-4 teachers are teaching specific strategies for understanding the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, teaching strategies for instant recall, and assessing students' progress throughout the school year. Families can support their child(ren) in reaching the grade level goals by helping them to remember to practice daily, helping them find ways to practice outside of school, and by encouraging them to set goals.

Attached, you will find a list of ideas to help your child(ren) practice the basic facts in a fun way. Each month, the K-4 division will have a basic fact competition. September's winner was the classroom who logged the most minutes of practice outside of school and they will receive a special prize for their efforts.

**Note:** Don't forget to look at the attachments! There are photos of students during math activities and ideas for your child to practice the basic facts.

## Basic Fact Competition

### September's Winner/October's Goal

September's winning class was:  
Mrs. Brown's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class--Great work!

October's goal: The class with the highest mean (average) minutes per student

## Extra Math Help

### To tutor or Not to Tutor?

Every child who faces a challenge in math does not necessarily need tutoring. Please contact your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child's performance or the need for a tutor. There are many resources already in place to support your child's education. Some teachers offer office hours to meet with students.

- SES Room 227: Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:30-5:00pm
- Math Lab Room 113 with Mrs. Straith: Fridays Grades 3-4 only, during lunch/recess 11:48-12:38 (students should bring peanut-free lunch to Room 113)
- Resource Room 10 with Mrs. Seigerman: Mondays from 11:48-12:13
- More TBA

## Frequently Asked Questions

### (and the Answers!)

Question: How does *Everyday Mathematics* address basic fact mastery?

Answer: The *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum employs a variety of techniques to help children develop their "fact power", or basic number-fact reflexes. These include:

- Practice through Games
- Choral Drills and Mental Math Exercises
- Fact Triangles and Fact Families
- Math Boxes
- Fact Extension Practice (i.e.  $30+50=80$ )
- Frames and Arrows Diagrams
- Home Links