

October 2, 2013

Dear Parents,

In July of 2010, the New York State Board of Regents adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which are a national set of learning expectations for college and career success that were developed by teachers, parents, school administrators, and education experts. One main focus of the Common Core is on literacy across the content areas. Yes, this means your child will be focusing on literacy skills in our math classes.

Mathematical literacy is being able to do, understand, and apply mathematics, not only in the classroom, but in everyday lives. Ensuring that students are mathematically literate will be a priority in our classroom so that our students are confident, competent, and ready for college and career. Incorporating reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking in instruction provides students with opportunities to develop literacy in mathematics while deepening their mathematical knowledge, conceptual understanding, and skills.

Students need to be engaged in a multitude of critical thinking experiences in which they construct viable arguments for real world situations in mathematics; write detailed, precise mathematical arguments; verbalize arguments and critique the reasoning of others; listen to, process and apply critique from others; listen to and analyze the reasoning and arguments of others; read and make sense of text that explains mathematical procedures, proofs and arguments; and develop conceptual understanding of mathematical language, content, strategies, skills, and reasoning.

Mathematically literate students are able to analyze, reason, and communicate ideas effectively as they pose, formulate, solve and interpret mathematical problems in a variety of situations.

Listed below are the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice from the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics which provides a framework for developing mathematical literacy.

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

On our website, you will find several links and articles, as well as a problem solving template, which we will be using throughout the year. It is pertinent that you are aware of the strategies that we use consistently in class, so you can support your child at home. The stronger the partnership between school and home, the better success your child will have.

We look forward to working with you and helping your child to become mathematically literate.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ruffler and Kristin Doherty