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Practicing Multiplication Facts

Dear Family,

To develop strong computation strategies for multiplication with multidigit numbers, students need to be fluent with the multiplication facts up to 10×10 , often known as “multiplication tables.” Students were expected to learn these multiplication facts in Grade 3, and they reviewed and used them in Grade 4. The beginning of the school year is a good time for Grade 5 students to review these facts and identify any facts they may still not know fluently.

The sheer number of multiplication facts to remember can seem overwhelming, and many adults recall the task of “memorizing the facts.” In school, students have learned these facts in categories of related facts to help them. As Grade 5 students review the multiplication facts, they identify the facts they still need to practice. They record the facts they are still learning, and they add “clues” to help them with those facts. Students use a fact that they know, which is “close to” the fact they are solving, and then they adjust to find the product. Here are some examples:

$$9 \times 8 = 72 \quad 8 \times 9 = 72$$

$$\text{Clue: } 10 \times 8 = 80 \quad 80 - 8 = 72$$

$$6 \times 7 = 42 \text{ and } 7 \times 6 = 42$$

$$\text{Clue: } 6 \times 5 = 30 \quad 6 \times 2 = 12 \quad 30 + 12 = 42$$

$$4 \times 8 = 32 \text{ and } 8 \times 4 = 32$$

$$\text{Clue: } 2 \times 8 = 16 \quad 16 + 16 = 32$$



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As they practice using the clues, students gradually come to know the facts that are difficult for them. Here are some suggestions to help your child learn the multiplication facts.

- Ask your child which multiplication facts he or she is practicing.
- Find out what clues your child has chosen to help learn these facts.
- Choose two or three of the facts at a time to review together.