

Communication Update for Math/Science - End of Term 1, 2019

The first 3 math objectives are standards for mathematical practice - how your child approaches problems and communicates her/his mathematical reasoning. Since we are grading on end of year standards, students would be right on track if they received a 2 in these areas, and received a 3 only if they are communicating at an end of 5th grade level standard. These are areas in which we expect students to grow quite a bit, so 1's and 2's are to be expected at this time of year.

What do the other math objectives measure?

Writes and interprets mathematical expressions - This objective measured how students were able to apply the order of operations that we use when solving an equation. Do what's in parentheses first, then exponents, multiplication/division, and finally complete the addition/subtraction. The highest possible score in this area was a 3.

Understands the place value system - This objective measured how students were able to solve multiplication problems using factors with multiples of 10. For example, a student would solve $40 \times 700 = 28,000$. The highest possible score in this area was a 2, since not all parts of the objective have been introduced yet since later in the year this objective involves decimals.

Performs operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths - This objective measured how students were able to solve multi-digit multiplication and division problems accurately and efficiently.

The specific objectives were: Solve 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication problems efficiently.

Solve division problems with up to 3-digit dividends and 1-digit and 2-digit divisors.

The highest possible score in this area was a 2, since we have not introduced decimals yet.

Understands concepts of volume and relates volume to multiplication and addition - This objective measured varying concepts about volume, such as applying it to rectangular prisms and combinations of joined prisms. It went from activities where they built with blocks to higher complexities of visualizing and solving from given measurements. The highest possible score in this area was a 3 since all parts of the concept were introduced. We will continue to review and practice this skill during the year.

Finally, **the other math objectives are automatically scored with a 0**, since students have not worked on these objectives yet this school year.

Are you looking for ways to support academic learning at home? Here are a few suggestions, but please reach out if you would like additional ideas!

- ❖ Ask your child questions about the strategies and concepts that he/she is learning about in school. In math we experiment with many different ways to solve problems with the goals of deep understanding, accuracy, and efficiency, so you may even choose to ask your child to teach you the strategies he/she is learning. If your child can teach you the strategy, they really have strong understanding.
- ❖ If needed, have your child practice math facts with you or through the use of technology. Automaticity of the basic facts is essential, and there are many free apps and website-based programs available.
- ❖ Have your child work on Math Bonus Work or Math Challenge Activities, either with you or independently. These activities can help your child review, practice, and enrich their mathematical understanding.
- ❖ Encourage your child to participate in everyday mathematical/scientific learning as you go about your family activities. During Term 2 we will be building on fraction and decimals concepts. Having your child help with grocery shopping, online product comparisons, etc. can help your child apply strategies and see the prevalence of math and science in our lives!
- ❖ Encourage your child to explore scientific interests by reading about a variety of topics. Sometimes children will ask a question about our world that is scientific in nature, such as "Why is the sky blue?" This would be a great time to have your child do a little research!

Thank you for all your support as we continue to learn and grow in 5th grade!

