

Math Expressions: Homework Help from Lisa Donahue-White, Instructional Coach



Chances are you've noticed a shift in math homework as we implement the district's new Math Expressions resource. The program provides frequent practice immediately following the day's lesson called "Homework and Remembering". We recognize students and families are having varied experiences with this. A few tips for handling any homework challenges:

- **Help with time management.** Establish a set time each day for doing homework and allow for the likelihood there will be math homework. Don't let your child wait until just before bedtime. Break the time into two chunks with a break in between, if needed.
- **Be positive about homework.** The attitude you express about the homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- **There's a Homework page and a Remembering page.** The Homework side will practice today's class concepts, while the Remembering contains review. If both sides are assigned on one night, do the Homework side first. Your child will be most alert during more challenging tasks and easier material will go quickly when fatigue sets in. Or flip the order if your child needs to build positive momentum before tackling newer concepts.
- **Some struggle is okay.** Kids need to build stamina and learn that struggle is a part of learning and growth.
- **Learn the level of support your child needs. Then provide guidance, not answers.** Some students may be able to work independently and check in with you at the end of the assignment. Others may need your support intermittently. Giving answers will not help your child learn material. Ask questions, provide feedback, do one problem together & then walk away to allow your child to try one on his/her own.
- **Communicate with the teacher.** If homework was a battle at your house because it was too difficult, please let the teacher know. Put a sticky note on the assignment or send a quick email so the teacher can adjust instruction. We value your partnership in your child's learning!

Next week: Accessing online Math Expressions supports for parents and students.