



Wyoming Primary Schools

Elm • Hilltop • Vermont

January 17, 2025

Dear WPS Families,

We are excited to share some best practices for helping students master their basic math facts! Strong math fact fluency provides a foundation for problem-solving and boosts confidence in tackling more complex math concepts.

Here are some practical tips to keep in mind:

1. Make It Fun and Engaging

- Use games like flashcards, board games, or apps that turn math practice into a fun activity.
- Encourage activities like math scavenger hunts, where students look for everyday numbers to solve simple problems.
- Incorporate math into daily routines (e.g., while cooking or shopping) by asking them to add, subtract, or count.

2. Keep Practice Short and Frequent

- Keep math practice sessions brief (10-15 minutes) but consistent. Short, daily practice helps build fluency without overwhelming the child.
- Break up longer sessions into multiple short bursts to keep them light and enjoyable.

3. Focus on Understanding, Not Just Memorization

- Emphasize strategies like using doubles (e.g., $6 + 6$) or making 10 (e.g., $7 + 3$) to develop a deeper understanding of how numbers relate to each other.
- Ask your child how they got their answer. This can reinforce mathematical thinking.

4. Use Math Fact Songs or Rhymes

- Songs or chants can help students remember math facts in a rhythmic, enjoyable way.

5. Be Positive and Celebrate Progress

- Celebrate your child's progress and growth, no matter how small. Positive reinforcement can build confidence and motivation.
- Don't show frustration if your child struggles. Instead, encourage them to "keep trying."

6. Practice in Different Ways

- Mixing up practice methods (oral, written, visual, and hands-on) can keep children engaged. Using manipulatives like coins, buttons, or blocks can also help make abstract math more concrete.
- Try interactive activities like skip-counting or using objects to represent math problems.

7. Focus on Fluency, Not Speed

- Focus on your child understanding the math facts rather than racing to complete problems quickly. Speed can come with time as they become more fluent.

8. Incorporate Technology (Sparingly)

- There are great math apps or websites for supplemental practice, but balance screen time with hands-on activities.

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Gina Kirchner

Principal, Wyoming Primary Schools

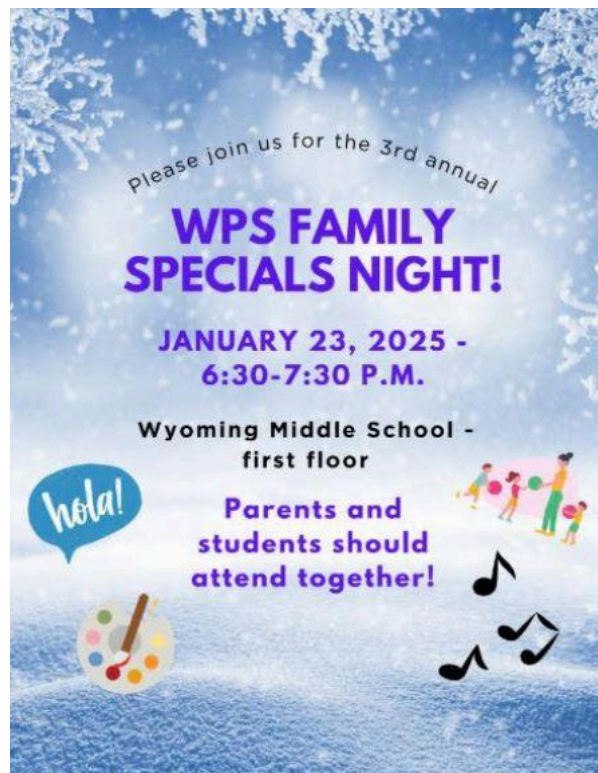
Counselor Corner

During the past week the Cowboy TV lessons focused on the reason for and importance of classroom rules. Classroom rules help everyone work together and have fun while learning. When students follow the rules, classrooms are happy and safe. Rules make it easier for everyone to focus, share, and feel like they belong. Classroom rules also help students to be good friends. Rules like sharing, taking turns, using kind words, and helping each other make it

easier to get along with others. Another important rule is being a great listener by paying attention when a teacher or classmate is talking. When students listen carefully, they show respect and learn new things. Listening makes people feel valued because they know you care about what they have to say. Classroom rules also remind us to be respectful, responsible, safe, and ready to learn. When students follow the rules, they'll learn more, have fun, and feel proud of themselves. As a parent you can help make your child aware of his/her actions on others and point out the rules in your home and community that are similar to rules in school and explain their importance in those settings.

Family Specials Night - Thursday, January 23rd

Mark your calendars for our third, annual Family Specials Night on Thursday, January 23rd from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Wyoming Middle School. At this event, WPS families and their students will participate in fun activities connected to P.E., Music, Spanish, and Art with our amazing specials teachers! We hope to see you there!



Kindergarten Enrollment for 2025-2026

We're excited to announce that we're gearing up for kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year! For detailed information on enrollment, please [visit our website](#).

Mark your calendars for our Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, February 27th, at 6:30 p.m. at Hilltop School. This event is a great opportunity to learn more about our kindergarten program and get your questions answered. We look forward to welcoming our newest Cowboys!

Devices at School

As we return from winter break, we recognize that many students may have received new devices, such as phones, e-readers, watches, or smartwatches, as holiday gifts. We want to remind families that students are not permitted to use devices of any kind during the school day - including those devices that are in "airplane mode" or "school mode". All devices, including watches, must remain turned off and stored in students' backpacks while at school. They should not be turning devices back on until after 3:25 p.m. as they are leaving the building. This practice helps us maintain a focused and distraction-free learning environment. Thank you for your support in reinforcing this expectation with your child.

Yearbook - Message from PAC

Attention 4th Grade Parents: every year we work to recognize our "graduating" 4th graders as they end their time at the primary school and move on to middle school. One way we do this is by highlighting them in a spread in the primary yearbook. We need your help to do this. Please send in a photo of your 4th grader along with a few notes about the photo - they must be at least 1MB (often cropping or editing a photo will compress it, send an original photo), the photo should be just of them (please do not send photos with friends or siblings). The photo should be a candid and we encourage it to be something that highlights their personality or hobbies but needs to include a clear image of their face (do not send far away in action sport shots or photos of backs). Send all photos (or questions) to wyoprimyearbook@gmail.com by Feb. 28th. We thank you for helping us give special recognition of our special 4th graders.

Upcoming Dates

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** - No School - Monday, January 20th
- **Professional Development Day** - No School for Students - Tuesday, January 21st
- **Family Specials Night** - Thursday, January 23rd - 6:30-7:30 at Wyoming Middle School

[View the full WCS calendar here.](#)

News from Around Wyoming

[Click here for more Events and Information from around WCS & the community](#), including:

- Finance Friday
- Kindergarten Registration Info

- Upcoming Events
- WSMA Winter Music Fest
- WSF Blue, White & Brackets Save the Date
- JWC Euchre Tournament
- Spring 2025 Girls on the Run for Grades 3-5
- Wyoming Fine Arts Center: My Block, My City Program
- UC DAAP K-12 Saturday Art Program begins Feb. 15