

## **SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH**

As adults, we sometimes forget how confusing, frustrating, and difficult middle school can be. For some; math is especially confusing, frustrating, and difficult. Being a middle school math teacher, I hear many parents who want to help their child, but aren't sure how. Below I will share some very useful tips on how you can support your child in math.

### **Tips to Support Your Child in Math**

1. NEVER share with your child the idea that you were bad at math or you dislike it! Researchers found that when a parent shared that idea with their child, their child's achievement went down. You should encourage a "growth mindset. Let your child know that they have unlimited math potential and that being good at math is all about working hard. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall!
2. Help set up a consistent organized place for virtual learning/homework to be done. Help your child establish a consistent schedule for completing work. Always have notes from class or other resources (youtube video on topic) right next to homework. If your child gets stuck, he or she is likely to find similar problems in one of these resources that can help.
3. Never give your child answers to problems! By giving away answers, you're depriving your child of the chance to develop the mental processes required to learn a new concept. No parent enjoys seeing their child struggle, but providing answers could set them up for frustration when they have to tackle more difficult problems. This might even stunt their progress as classmates move to more advanced lessons.
4. Encourage your child to underline or highlight keywords or phrases in situational problems, as these often help students set up a solution.
5. If you are aware that your child is unable to quickly recite the multiplication tables up to 12's, please have them practice this essential skill daily until they are able to do so. Mastering the multiplication table is a key component that will dictate the amount of time needed for each homework assignment. When your child is struggling with basic mathematics, such as multiplication, it provides a barrier from them being able to move through the more abstract material.
6. If your child is frustrated by mathematics, show him/her how to focus on concepts rather than procedural knowledge. This might help your child approach and solve problems in a different way—one that makes more sense to them. For instance, ask your child to explain one problem in their assignments each night. If possible, choose one that incorporates both words

and computation. If your child is simply reciting step-by-step instructions, encourage him/her to elaborate by asking questions focusing on the "why" of the solution.

- o What is the goal of the problem?
- o Why does that step work?
- o Why would we want to do that next?
- o What does this step in the process accomplish?
- o How do I know if my answer is reasonable?
- o Can I check my work to make sure it makes sense to me?

7. After your child has completed an assignment, ask him/her to share what he/she believes was the most important idea.

- o What is the goal of the problem?
- o What did these problems have in common?
- o Where would I use this in "real life"?
- o Why do you think your teacher gave you this assignment? What did she want you to learn?

***The most important thing to convey to your child is NOT TO GIVE UP! Mathematical concepts are intricate and take time to fully grasp. Encouragement and patience go a long way!***

### ***How to Stay Connected***

ProgressBook (our online grading system) is available 24/7 for parents and students to check on grades as well as assignments missings via <http://pa.noeca.org/> . Passwords and usernames are the same as last year, if needed, please contact the office (419) 668-8370 for login and password information so you can monitor your child's progress.

Familiarize yourself with how Google Classroom works. Have your child show you their Math Google Classroom. Here is a great video that can help you get started:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=video+for+a+parent+how+to+use+googleclassroom&rlz=1C1GCE\\_A\\_enUS821US821&oq=video+for+a+parent+how+to+use+googleclassroom&aqs=chrome..69i57j33.15734j1j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=\\_XqsyX6uQGPPDytMP9-SU2A827](https://www.google.com/search?q=video+for+a+parent+how+to+use+googleclassroom&rlz=1C1GCE_A_enUS821US821&oq=video+for+a+parent+how+to+use+googleclassroom&aqs=chrome..69i57j33.15734j1j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_XqsyX6uQGPPDytMP9-SU2A827)

Our Math 7 classroom webpage is <http://teal-nms.weebly.com/>. I do not post work on our webpage but there are MANY videos and helpful materials that may help review different topics covered this year and last.

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