

Wider Horizons School

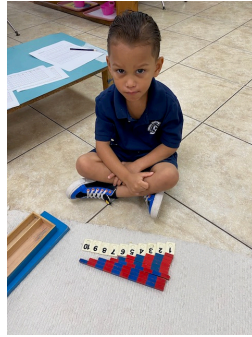
WHS Math is Comprehensive

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/15 Gift Giving
12/22 Carol Sing
12/23- 1/8 *Christmas Vacation*
1/9 Return to School

MATH: THE SUBJECT THAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR COLLEGE
By Domenick J. Maglio Ph.D

In preschool some students gravitate to language arts and others to math activities. In the higher elementary grades more disciplined study than other subjects is demanded in math to develop a strong foundation in that area. These other academic disciplines are broken into particular topics that are not interconnected material but are more separate and isolated subjects.



BUT IT IS JUST ADDING!

You may not think about what adding is all about as an adult but as a child you had to learn all the different aspects of what we call "addition."

Commutative property: $3+4=7$ is the same as $4+3=7$.

Associative property: three or more numbers will remain the same no matter what order.

$$4+2+5= 2+5+4$$

Additive identity property; adding zero to any number, the sum remains the same. $3+0=3$

Short Bead Stair: addition using simple counting, dynamic addition

Small number rods: addition with quantities from 1 to 10.

Addition Snake Game: What makes 10? Memorizing addition facts.

Addition strip board: aids in memorization of addition facts.

Addition Charts: aid in memorization of addition facts

Fill in the missing addend

Static addition, stamp game

Dynamic addition, stamp game

Adding large numbers using decimal material

Bank game

Addition flash cards- 1-10, 11-20- get the facts faster

Addition timed tests- have memorized your facts

Montessori Math booklets- with and without using materials

Static and dynamic materials

Addition, subtraction and multiplication facts have to be memorized for immediate recall. This presents a student with the first significant challenge to memorize a block of facts. The student either learns it or does not. There are no excuses for not learning the material. The student's determination to spend time and concentrate on memorizing the material demonstrates to the child it takes pure effort to gain certain types of knowledge. Some students apply themselves willingly and easily to memorize it. Others could care less and have to be prompted and bribed to even start the process. These students regrettably fight each step of the way to their own detriment. Some will win the battle and lose the war where many schools allow the student to count on his fingers instead of putting the information into his mind's memory bank.

PRESCHOOL
Mrs. Bermudez

This week in preschool, the children are learning about the different holidays from around the world. The children are having lots of fun learning new and traditional Christmas songs and have been very busy at the art table making various holiday crafts.

On Friday, the children were introduced to Christmas themed work. The math area has lots of new Christmas number set baskets. Practical Life has all new work added as well. The children had a lesson on writing 1 to 50, 1 to 100, and some children were learning to subtract. In language the children were working with sounds and blending sounds while others were reading Bob Books and working on their penmanship. The children were also given a lesson on different vocabulary words.

At the Practical Life area the children had various lessons on the Dressing Frames. The dressing frames are a set of wooden frames that can be fastened together. Each frame has a different fastening device: snaps, hooks and eyes, lacing, buttons, buckles, zippers, and bow ties. The children also had a lesson on how to put their jackets on by themselves. Here at Wider Horizons one of our goals is for your child to become more independent and we ask the parents to please help your child be more independent outside of school. For example, letting your child walk alone to their classroom, not carrying them in, and letting them dress themselves are just some examples. Thank you.

Next week, we are having our Montessori Education Week. Notifications went home this week with all the information you need to know. Any questions please call the office.

On December 15th, we are having our annual Pajama party from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Parents, just send your children in with their Pajamas and we will take care of the rest. If your child is going to stay the whole

day, send in their pajamas, shoes, one stuffed animal, a small blanket and pillow. We hope to see all of the preschoolers for a fun and exciting three hours.

PRIMARY
Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful break. Primary students did a great job jumping back into the swing of things. We were happy to see the children's smiling faces.

The students have begun making Christmas crafts as well as ornaments to decorate their trees. We have also begun practicing our Christmas carols in preparation of our school wide caroling.

With the winter break quickly approaching, we have spent the week reviewing lessons that the students have been given so far. We are focusing on improving language, writing stories, composing sentences, identifying and symbolizing nouns and verbs and doing extra math work. We are encouraging all our students to memorize all the math facts; addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

Pajama party information went home this week. We are very excited to have fun, eat and make crafts. If your child chooses to attend, please send in the form with payment so we can get a head count as soon as possible. We appreciate it.

LOWER ELEMENTARY
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Leighton, Kenneth, Richard, Riley, Bailey, James W, Chad, Joemanuel, and Jace for moving up in their multiplication facts. Congratulations to Logan and Jax for moving up to mixed times tables. Congratulations to Jax, Hely, and Adelina for having perfect readings sheets.

In math this week, the students worked in their math booklets,

STUDENT EDITOR
Chase Ghingher

learned how to read a bar graph, used geometry cards, and completed math applications.

In spelling, the students learned about syllables and worked from the tower.

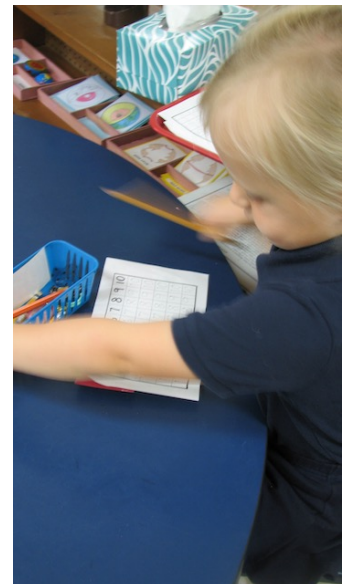
In art, the students worked on Christmas crafts.

In geography some students are finishing continents while other students have started on states. The students have states, capitals, and abbreviations in their homework folder they need to memorize. They currently have states 1-10.

In science, the students are completing external parts of the animals.

In history, the students continued to work on and complete the Northwest, California, the Great Plains, and the Southwest region.

Keep in mind some students have purchased new books. If a student would like to read one of their own books for a book report, they are required to bring the book in for approval.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms Russell

Upper Elementary, please don't forget about the foster children we are sponsoring this year for the holidays. Notices about these children were sent home before Thanksgiving.

With only a few short weeks until the end of the second quarter, we have urged our students to stay focused, so they can finish the quarter on a high note. The excitement of the holidays tends to derail even the most dedicated students.

Fourth graders are working diligently to be halfway done with their math textbooks before the end of the second quarter. Students are almost finished with the first half of the language tower as well, and will be tested on the different parts of speech. In geography, students have been assigned a state from the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

Fifth grade students have been working hard to finish a majority of the language tower that they started last year. As the rules of grammar get more complex and abstract, it is important for students to have a strong foundation on the parts of speech. In math, many students are more than halfway through the textbook. However, it is important that students avoid rushing and making careless mistakes.

Many of our sixth graders are close to the halfway mark of the math book; now is the time to put forth more effort towards learning new concepts. New concepts mean more effort and practice will be needed to earn better grades. Don't forget that homework assignments prepare students for tests, so extra care should be taken when completing math homework. One way parents can help is by making sure a math set is completed daily, all work must be shown, and students should refer back to previous lessons. In Physical Science, our students are working on booklets that illustrate elements from the periodic table. Upon the completion of both

booklets, they will create a poster demonstration about the unique characteristics of their chosen element. Instead of a book report for the 1st of December. Sixth graders will read a series of fables, write a summary, and illustrate the fable. These short assignments will be completed in class.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Mrs. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

We want to welcome everyone back to school after what we hope was a very pleasant Thanksgiving break!

Congratulations to Ryleigh Layton, 9th grade, for progressing from Algebra 1 to Algebra 2.

This week has been dedicated to both reviewing work that the students were assigned to complete on their days off as well as diving into new material.

The 7th graders have started a new section in spelling and are being encouraged to memorize vocabulary words and integrate them into daily conversation whenever possible.

In Civics, 8th grade students have just finished a unit on the process of making new laws. They will now begin covering what our first presidential administrations did in order to create confidence in the central government.

The 9th graders have continued their learning of Physical Science by exploring chemical bonds, structures, and formulas.

In financial literacy, 10th graders will be wrapping up their study of what life is like while attempting to navigate budgeting. They will be creating a presentation that will teach the whole class about the importance of obtaining careers that can sufficiently support your family.

IN CASE OF A STORM OR STATE OF EMERGENCY WHERE THERE IS NO POWER - SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

During circle time this week, the topic was about Thanksgiving. The children told us what they are most thankful for. Many children said that they are thankful for their parents and family, others were most thankful for food and toys.

On the playground, the children participated in games such as Green Light - Red Light, Hide and Seek, and playing on the playground equipment. We also had a discussion on how to be a good sport and how we should not get upset and cry when we do not win or when things do not go our way. Once inside, some children finished their fall art work and others worked on activities of their choice.

Have a great weekend!

Parents please do not enter the after school classrooms. Please knock and your child will be sent out once they have cleaned up any activities they were using. Thank you for your cooperation.

Continued from front page

This reluctance to get tasks done that are not attractive to the student is troubling for the student's future learning. There are many subjects in our schools such as grammar, spelling, history; science terms that seem to an immature youngster to be boring and unimportant but are building blocks of knowledge and skills. Not everything can or should be sugar packaged to the interest of every student. They have learned to "take their medicine" and do the things they do not want to do to become a stronger student. This certainly will be the case in higher education.

Many modern students are addicted to doing what they want instantly. It is the age of instant gratification. The Internet and social media often enhance their ability to self promote and express themselves to show what they want to be not what they really are. Social media consumes a large portion of daily activities, thought process and has even become a lifestyle for many youth. This leaves little time to do things that have to be mastered to be a well-educated person.

Our school grade inflation has been the opium for students and their parents to feel their child is doing well academically. The reality is too many are well below the level of competent students in this country and students in foreign nations. The giving of high grades to students who have not earned them is stifling learning. Students need to compete with themselves and others to be challenged to produce quality work. The poor academic achievement of modern American students is being compared negatively with past generations and current foreign students.

When students take comprehensive achievement and college entrance exams their deficit is exposed to the parents often for the first time. In too many cases they have to take remedial courses without any college credit or are unable to remain in the college program they chose. Too many students are delusional about their ability and prospect of succeed in college.

The one subject that is usually the litmus test for student success in higher education is mathematics. It is nothing more than logic that builds on itself. It is almost impossible to be a consistently good student in math without a solid foundation.

The student has to be precise, checking his own work after showing every step of the process including the type of units to arrive at a correct answer. It is a learned skill that requires focus and discipline in solving the problem. This activity is learned by reading the lessons thoroughly several times to fully understand the concept that is being shown. This procedure is necessary to develop the mental set needed to become a proficient math student.

Math is the area of study that separates the conscientious student from a casual, passive, "just get by" student. The subject of math cannot be faked. It is right or wrong. There is no subjective middle ground no matter how the material is presented.

Mastering math to an adequate level of proficiency is essential for earning almost any higher degree. It is a difficult subject for many students as it takes self-discipline to overcome obstacles and appreciate the positive logical thinking patterns that math teaches. Learning to think logically is necessary in higher education. More importantly it is a fundamental thinking skill that should be used in any career and is necessary to cultivate wisdom in one's life.

Domenick Maglio, PhD. is a columnist carried by various newspapers and blogs, an author of several books and owner/director of Wider Horizons School, a college prep program. Dr. Maglio is an author of weekly newspaper articles, INVASION WITHIN and the latest book entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at www.drmaglioblogspot.com.