What makes a student successful in math?

West Haven is entering our second year of implementing the new CT State Common Core. The curriculum writers made some changes to the CA’s over the summer to better prepare our students for the state standard test. As we have stated in the past, the curriculum is more aggressive and has raised the standard for what our students are learning and how they learn it.

Listed on the right are the 8 Mathematical Practices that were sent home last year in our newsletters. All of our teachers used a combination of these practices in their daily math lessons. These standards don’t just describe how students should use mathematics, they also provide a vehicle through which students engage with and learn mathematics. As students move from elementary school through high school, the Standards for Mathematical Practice remain the same. What changes is the way these standards look as students engage with and master new and more advanced mathematical ideas.

The goal of our newsletter this year is to provide you with strategies to use at home with your child to reinforce the concepts and skills they learned in school. In addition, to help increase communication between home and school, there will be a section where we will provide you and your child with a problem solving activity to complete together. Once that is completed, your child should return it back to their teacher to earn a reward.

We look forward to having a very successful and rewarding 2013–2014 school year.

Mrs. Bonaldo and Mrs. Solano

8 Math Practices

- Standard 1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Standard 2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Standard 3: Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Standard 4: Model with mathematics
- Standard 5: Use appropriate tools strategically
- Standard 6: Attend to precision
- Standard 7: Look for and make use of structure
- Standard 8: Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning
The Cougar Den

Carrigan Intermediate School consists of 20 - 5th grade classes and 20 - 6th grade classes. We have two Math Facilitators, Lynn Bonaldo and Mona Solano along with 4 math paraprofessionals that will be serving all students. The main job of the math facilitators is to model lessons in the classroom, which will develop the 8 math practices. We also will be taking small groups of students to reinforce concepts and skills that are being taught in the classroom. In addition, we will support the teachers with providing them with lessons, strategies, and activities that will, in turn, help the students become better learners. The paraprofessionals will assist the teachers during their math SRBI period, as well as work with small groups of students in the classroom. For example, they could be working on math facts, mathematical algorithms, reinforcing the lesson taught, etc.

Data Corner

Carrigan has been and continues to enroll and benchmark test each student in the Symphony Math computer program to monitor student achievement in math. The purpose of this program is to enhance students' conceptual learning of math while strengthening math skills. Both programs are accessible to parents to track their own child’s progress. Letters will be sent home with the students explaining the program and providing parents with log-in information.

Strategy of the Month

Someone said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Turning the words of a problem into a picture or a diagram can help you "see" the problem. By using the part of your brain that visualizes a situation or object, you may see relationships or information that helps you solve the problem. When someone tells you a story, try turning the words into a motion picture or a cartoon. When reading a description, try "seeing it in your mind's eye." If you can do these things, this strategy may be for you! Try using a picture or make a diagram to solve this problem:

In the restaurant there are 12 square tables. Only one person can sit on each side. What is the greatest number of people that can be seated if the tables are pushed end to end into one large rectangle? Label your answer.

How many 2 x 5 tiles are needed to cover this floor?

Answer: _____________________

Problem Solving is what you do when you don't know what to do. Being a good problem solver will help you be ready to live and work in our changing world. Computers can do computations but people must tell the computers what to do. Good problem solvers know how to make plans and use many different strategies in carrying out their plans. They use all of their past experiences to help them in new situations. We learn to swim by getting in the water; we learn to be good problem solvers by solving problems!