

# Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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## Videos, Zoom, Checkpoints, Worksheets, Quick Recall

We've got you covered from many angles (I'm so punny). Fourth grade math instruction starts with a lesson delivered through a video. This allows students to pause, repeat and revisit. Often there is pencil paper assignment (usually a workbook page) along with the video. Students should complete the video and attempt the written work before the 11:00 Zoom with Mrs. Lawler (<https://zoom.us/j/92127774515?pwd=R3R1eU1Vd3djMTV0cXdBQ3JYNEMwUT09#success>) This mostly optional zoom reteaches in a smaller setting. Part of our 8:30-whole-class-morning-zoom routine will include quick recall checkpoints. Yes, students will have one minute to attempt 28 basic facts. Other checkpoints that speak to previously taught topics are given during the weekly quiz (Google classroom, in the format of a form). Many ways to assess, many ways to learn.

Our first math chapter of the year is Place Value of Whole Numbers. We will study numbers to 1,000,000. Skills include reading and writing large numbers in different ways, comparing and ordering numbers and finding the rule in a number pattern. This is mostly review, so the pace is quick. Great times ahead!

### Math:

OLG grades K-5 use the math series, *Math in Focus: Singapore Math*. The program consists of Student textbooks (hardbound) and workbooks (soft cover) that work together. Paper/pencil assignments will often be pages from the workbook. This includes practice pages to reinforce math skills and concepts and "Put on Your Thinking Cap!" pages. Look for more challenging practice problems to help broaden thinking skills and non-routine problems that require students think independently. Students should hear me say, "Are you sure about that?" "Is there another way to show this?" "Prove it!"

Throughout the year fourth graders will focus on building problem-solving skills and strategies, multiplying and dividing with 1-digit and 2-digit numbers, adding and subtracting with fractions and decimals, understanding relationships between fractions and decimals, measurement and studying angles, line segments, area and perimeter.

You can encourage your child's efforts by taking advantage of opportunities to use math in everyday situations. Lists of suggested activities are long and somewhat predictable. I recommend the strategy of thinking aloud. Whenever you are problem solving, estimating, measuring or interpreting graphs or tables, model for your child how you think. Simply give voice to your thoughts. "I want to buy the cheapest yogurt and this brand is on sale, 10 for \$10.00. This packet of six is only \$3.99. That would be less than a dollar for each yogurt. I know that because six yogurts at \$1.00 each would be \$6.00. \$3.99 is less than \$6.00, so each yogurt would be less than \$1.00. So the packet that is not on sale is actually less expensive than the 10 for \$10."

Check out fourth grade standards at <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Content/4/introduction/>

### Dates to Remember

**Tuesday, 9/8:** Classes begin! Look to the classroom webpage each day for a daily schedule with links and detailed assignments.

<https://www.guadalupe-school.org/classes/4th-grade-home/>

**Thursday, 9/10:** All School Mass (attend virtually)

**Thursday, 9/17:** Town Hall Zoom

**Friday, 9/25:** Jog-a-thon

### Online Platforms

<https://www.whizz.com/login/>

Each fourth grader has access to Math-Whizz Tutoring Plus, an online personalized learning service that caters to each child's unique abilities. Please have your child use the account provided by OLG. If you have created an individual or family account, double check to make sure your child has logged into the OLG provided account. Usernames and passwords were provided in hard copy during last week's orientation.

Students will be asked to complete an online assessment. From there, the program adjusts to your child's level and progresses at their pace. Mrs. Lawler and I use data from MathWhizz to help us meet each child's needs. If your child is done with all of their schoolwork before 3 PM, have them work in MathWhizz. Most students see progress when they put in 45 minutes per week.

[https://xtramath.org/-/signin/student\\_other](https://xtramath.org/-/signin/student_other)

Fluency with basic math facts is vital for ease throughout all fourth grade math topics. The goal is routine practice. Enrollment codes were provided in hard copy during last week's orientation. Concerned about screen time? Feel free to bring out the old school flash cards or check out these offline games:

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/7-games-practice-math-facts/>