

Thursday, April 2

Math	
6 th Grade:	<p>Sixth Grade Families,</p> <p>While we watch the events unfolding around us in this unprecedented time, we are struck by the importance mathematics plays in our understanding of the pandemic. Exponential growth, graphing, and statistics play a major role in how the world responds to the crisis. So many of the skills and ideas that you are beginning to grasp as learners are the very skills utilized to make predictions and inform the public.</p> <p>Look around. Where else are you seeing mathematics used?</p> <p>As our extended break continues, if you are looking for learning options, please go to the Student and Parent Online Resources page provided by the District. In addition to working on ALEKS, the Khan Academy site offers instruction specific to the Illustrative Mathematics curriculum. We have set up classes, so your student has the option to join the class and review topics or look ahead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Dahms's students: https://www.khanacademy.org/join/DNUDDXY9• Mrs. Majure's and Mr. Hendricks's students: https://www.khanacademy.org/join/NC2CEA <p>If your sixth grader needs a little human interaction or activity, play a board game, shoot some hoops, or take a walk.</p> <p>We miss your faces, sixth graders. Make good choices.</p> <p>Socially distant high fives from your math teachers, Mrs. Dahms (paige.dahms@dmschools.org), Mrs. Majure (laura.majure@dmschools.org), and Mr. Hendricks (william.hendricks@dmschools.org)</p>
7 th Grade and 8 th Grade:	<p>Dear 7th and 8th Grade Math Students and Families,</p> <p>As “social distancing” is becoming a new phrase that we hear and use in these difficult times, these words stay a description and a measure for the physical world around us. Our students are presently close in our hearts and thoughts. Their wellbeing and future success are the driving force for our work and efforts; this is something COVID-19 has no power to change!</p> <p>You are all in our thoughts every day. This is a new experience for all of us; we hope it ends soon, and we all get back to our normal lives without worrying about any new phrases which underlay a number that limits our interactions.</p> <p>Speaking of numbers, we have had numerous emails from students and parents checking in with us about resources that help in keeping our students connected to learning while they are away from their classes during this difficult time.</p>

We highly appreciate this positive thinking and your good use of stay-at-home time to keep our students engaged in learning. We will include new OPTIONAL resources each week, so be sure to check in every Thursday for new math learning opportunities!

Review your skills!

- Our district resource page <https://www.dmschools.org/onlinelearning> has math activities that parents and students can easily navigate and choose from to keep our students intellectually engaged and challenged.
- Another important resource is ALEKS (www.aleks.com). The activities on this website are aligned with our math standards. To help guide our students to focus on the most important skills, your teachers have prepared a few “homework assignments” as review activities, or you can continue working through your Learning Path. The website provides students with solved and explained examples in addition to giving students the ability to retake the questions they missed up to 5 times. **Feel free to email your teacher to ask for your username and password in case any of you forgot this information.**

Stay Connected!

- Write your math teacher a note to share positive thoughts and fun you’re having during this time.
- Understand the numbers. Reading periodicals, newspapers or online reputable news sources like <https://newsela.com/rules/latest> (which can be adjusted to a student’s reading level) or watching the news should provide lots of exposure to math concepts. The math during this pandemic seems to focus heavily upon statistics, probability, and number sense.
- Design a card with geometrical figures (Dilations! Reflections! Rotations! Translations!) and send it to someone who might need positive thoughts during this time.

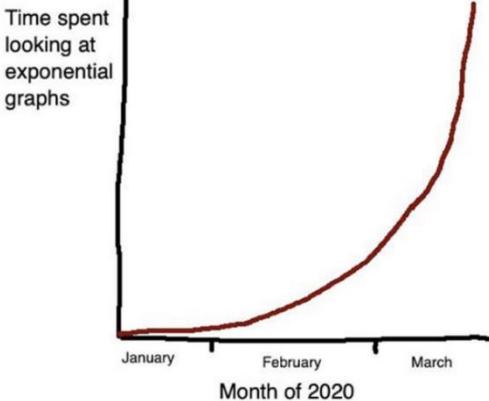
We miss you!

Mrs. Short (cathy.short@dmschools.org)

Mrs. Faten (faten.hleihel@dmschools.org)

Mrs. Ferring (kari.ferring@dmschools.org)

Ms. Nolan (elizabeth.nolan@dmschools.org)

	 memetides  <p>Time spent looking at exponential graphs</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Time Spent (approx.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>January</td><td>Very Low</td></tr> <tr><td>February</td><td>Low</td></tr> <tr><td>March</td><td>High</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Time Spent (approx.)	January	Very Low	February	Low	March	High
Month	Time Spent (approx.)								
January	Very Low								
February	Low								
March	High								
Science									
6 th Grade:	<p>Hello, 6th graders! We hope that this message finds you healthy and happy during this extended spring break! Please know that we miss you and hope to connect soon. Here is how...</p> <p>1) Please check either your email connected with Infinite Campus or your student email for directions on how to create cell models at home. You may submit final answers by emailing a description or snapping a picture!</p> <p>2) We are beginning a 6th grade daily challenge. These challenges will occur 7 days per week, no off days! The challenges can be found on this website: http://merrillscience6.weebly.com and will begin tomorrow (Friday, April 3). Please check the website daily for the new challenge. It will be updated by 9:00 a.m. each day along with a running leaderboard between Mr. Hammond and Mrs. Swanda's classes.</p> <p>We can't wait to hear from you! Mr. Hammond & Mrs. Swanda</p>								
7 th Grade:	<p>Hello, Merrill families and students,</p> <p>We hope this email finds you well. We miss you a lot! We know you may be bored, trying to find things to do, so we looked up some interesting videos and articles related to the topics we were covering in class. The link below takes you to a page with several options.</p> <p>There are also more topics on PBS Learning to discover if you find one more interesting to you. You can select the one(s) that is most interesting to you! For some of the videos, you will have the option to read a short article and answer a few discussion questions. Feel free to email the answers or a short paragraph of what you learned to your science teacher. <i>It's not required</i>, but we wanted you to know that we are here for anything you need and would love to hear from you!</p>								

	<p>Mutation: https://iowa.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/science/life-science/genetics-and-heredity/mutations/?selected_facet=grades:7</p> <p>Ms. Luckow and Mr. Quinlan</p>
8 th Grade:	<p>Hello, 8th grade friends!</p> <p>We hope this message finds you well, and you all are doing your best at staying healthy. During these trying times, we want you all to know every one of you are in our thoughts-- WE MISS YOU!</p> <p>Before we left, we were working on wrapping up the Forces and Motion Unit. Last week, Ms. Sweers sent out a message saying if anyone would like to do activities related to Newton's Three Laws of Motion, to email her. We think it would be great to share these resources with everyone, in hopes of encouraging your science mindset and engineering skills! Ms. Luckow also found a great resource on PBS involving Newton's Three Laws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBS Newton's Triple Play: https://iowa.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ilunctv18-sci-ilnewton/newtons-triple-play-baseball-science/ • Build a Balloon-Powered Car: https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/build-a-balloon-powered-car/ • Make a Balloon Rocket (We did this in class--it would be fun to add a note-sending part to this and send notes from one room to another): https://sciencebob.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Make_A_Balloon_Rocket1.pdf • DIY Newton's Cradle (YouTube video): https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=23&v=temkhfR2YLQ&feature=emb_logo • Create a paper roller coaster (our challenge is to create a loop for the marble to go around): https://www.amazingmess.com/roller-coaster-paper-plate-toilet-paper-roll-project/ • Create a Rube Goldberg machine (you can make it as simple or as intricate as you'd like!) Here's an example of two men's Rube Goldberg machine: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nORRgU8sGdE <p>Please take some time to look over each activity, and feel free to do one, some, or all (remember, these are NOT required, but we do encourage you to try at least one 😊). If you choose to do any of the engineering activities, we'd love to see pictures or a video of you and your family doing it, so send it our way!</p> <p>Best wishes, Ms. Sweers (heather.sweers@dmschools.org) & Mrs. Luckow (clarissa.luckow@dmschools.org)</p>

Other Notes

I would like to continue to highlight our students in all of the upcoming issues of the Merrill Minute. Please submit a photo, along with a short description, of what's been happening in the neighborhood. Ideas: Pictures of students reading, fort building, riding bikes, cooking, you get the idea! Submit to kathryn.panek@dmschools.org and then look for photos to be published in the next Merrill Minute!

Beginning on Monday, April 6, print materials for PK-8 grade students will be distributed at food sites. Materials will be bound "workbook" style by grade level. Links to the print materials will also be added to the district webpage. This will continue every subsequent Monday throughout the closure. Stay tuned for more information in the coming days.

Also, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Greater Des Moines) has put together a suite of online resources to support people during this difficult time. The site includes a weekly motivational speaker, interactive exercise classes from Farrell's, and many other options. If you are interested in exploring these resources, they can be found at <https://www.weareherewithyou.com/>.

Take care,
Kate

