

Dear Parents,

Another math update...we continue to work hard to learn new math strategies and ways to solve math problems. Now we have entered our subtraction unit. Until this time, your child was subtracting from 10 down...now we go up to 18. For instance 18-9 and 17-8. Many are finding subtraction to be an area where they need a little more practice at. How should I solve this? What is the quickest way? What methods can I use? I can no longer just put up 10 fingers and count back, so now what?

Please continue to nightly practice math facts. For many students repetition is a high influence in their ability to become fluent with their facts. Here are some methods that are used to learn subtraction facts:

Counting Back: 15-9 ... 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6

Counting Up: 15-9 ... 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (while putting up 1 finger per number counting up, thus the student would now have 6 fingers up so 6 is the answer)

Using Mental Math: 15-9 ... I know 15-10 is 5 so 15-9 is one more so it is 6.

Using a Double Fact: 14-8 ... I know 14-7 is 7 so 14-8 has to be one more so it is 6.

Thus there are a variety of tools and strategies you child can utilize. But, again, the key is practicing! Please let me know if you have any questions/comments.

Ms. Wenzel