Welcome to Mathematics at Home!

We are excited to share our Spring Mathematics at Home Newsletter.

As the days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer, it's time to get kids back outside in the fresh air and sunshine (even if it's liquid sunshine). This newsletter has lots of activities that you can do with kids outside to get them moving and burning energy. The activities in the choice board have kids exploring and interacting with nature around them and playing with chalk. The same and different activity is great for getting kids thinking and can be done inside or out. There are also a couple of book recommendations for those needed quiet moments.

We hope that you enjoy connecting with and engaging your kids in math. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Reach out to us anytime at Mathematics@k12.wa.us
Math Choice Boards – Spring Edition

So often we get locked into the idea that math has to be taught by sitting down at a table and completing worksheets. We want to challenge that idea by providing you with some choice boards. These grids are filled with fun activities you can do at home or out in the community while playing with your kids. We like choice boards because they give children a choice while still setting specific parameters designed to encourage developmentally appropriate math skills.

We have set up the choice boards by grade bands, but don’t feel limited. Enter the board at a place that best suits your child. Each column focuses on a different math concept, and the activities dive deeper into the skill as you work your way down the board.

Even though the weather unreliable at this time of the year, grab those moments of sunshine and have some fun outside.

Download the PDF choice boards:
- Preschool through 1st grade
- 2nd grade through 4th grade

Exploring Math Through Stories

Great stories are a wonderful way to get young people of all ages excited and interested in mathematics. The annual book prize, Mathical: Books for Kids from Tots to Teens, recognizes the most inspiring math-related fiction and nonfiction books that bring to life the wonder of math in our lives.

THE GIRL WITH A MIND FOR MATH, THE STORY OF RAYE MONTAGUE (2019 MATHICAL HONOR BOOK)

Written by Julia Finley Mosca • Illustrated by Daniel Rieley

Kindergarten through 5th grade

KEY MATH CONCEPTS
- Perseverance
- Women in Math
- Equity in Math

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Reading Guide

Want to enjoy Mathical books with the children around you? Feeling uncertain about guiding them through the book?

Click here to access a list of printable educational resources for The Girl With a Mind for Math. (Resources are towards the bottom of the page). There are both free and paid resources available. Check back frequently as they are continually adding new resources.

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Same and Different

Same and Different is an easy activity to use at home or while out and about. Simply pick out two object and compare them calling out ways they are similar and ways they are different.

While at the grocery store have kids compare two different fruits, such are apples and oranges.

Different: They are different colors

Same: Both are round like a ball

Different: Apples - you eat the skin, Oranges - you peel the skin off

Same: They both have a stem

Different: Apples are smooth, oranges are rough

Same and Different allows kids to compare two objects, but to also make connections between them. Math is all about connections between ideas and this activity invites kids to look at quantities, features, characteristics and see objects as not just different but also similar and connected. Same and Different can lead to great conversations and gives kids the opportunity to explain their thinking and justify their reasoning.

You can read more about Same and Different at Math Anywhere.

On their site you can find:

- How-to videos (also available in Spanish)
- Printables
- Additional ideas

Follow MathAnywhere on Twitter @mathanywhere
**Mindset**

The idea of a *growth mindset* was initially developed by Stanford Professor Carol Dweck, Ph.D., and since then a great deal of research has gone into its study and the implications it has on children and their learning. Whether you are new or experienced in the idea of a growth mindset, in each newsletter we will provide resources to help deepen your understanding and give you tools to use with your kids in developing their belief in themselves as capable doers of math.

**How to Talk to Your Kids to Instill a Growth Mindset**

It’s strange to think that one tiny change in the way you address your children could entirely change their outlook and behavior towards life and education. Unfortunately, many of us have fallen prone to congratulating our children and appraising even their smallest of accomplishments, all in an attempt to boost their confidence. Changing the way we praise kids can have a positive effect on their mindset. Read the article in its entirety to learn how.

**Say This, Not That**

The way we praise our children can have a profound impact on their mindset. Research on praise and mindsets shows that when we praise children for being smart, it promotes a fixed mindset. It sends a message that their accomplishments are trait-based, and tied to something innate. In contrast, praising kids for working hard promotes a growth mindset. It sends a message that the child’s effort is what led them to success. Want more tips on what to say, and what not to say, when praising your kids? Say This, Not That!

**A Story of Growth Mindset**

**Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music**

*Written by Margarita Engle • Illustrated by Rafael López*

Girls cannot be drummers. Long ago on an island filled with music, no one questioned that rule—until the drum dream girl. In her city of drumbeats, she dreamed of pounding tall congas and tapping small bongós. She had to keep quiet. She had to practice in secret. But when at last her dream-bright music was heard, everyone sang and danced and decided that both girls and boys should be free to drum and dream.

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Inspired by the childhood of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke Cuba's traditional taboo against female drummers, Drum Dream Girl tells an inspiring true story for dreamers everywhere.

Also available in Spanish.

Check out your local library or you can also find read aloud versions online such as this one.

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**Newsletter Sign-up**

Did you know you can get this newsletter sent straight to your email? Sign-up is easy. Just use the link below or use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code, and then follow the directions.

Sign up: [bit.ly/OSPIMathAtHome](bit.ly/OSPIMathAtHome)

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**Contact Us!**

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**ALL STUDENTS PREPARED FOR POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS, CAREERS, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.**

Led by State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, OSPI oversees K-12 public education in Washington state. Our mission is to provide funding, resources, tools, data and technical assistance that enable educators to ensure students succeed in our public schools, are prepared to access post-secondary training and education, and are equipped to thrive in their careers and lives.