

Dear Parents:

Through the years many parents have asked what can be done over the summer to maintain skills and develop mathematical thinking. The Middle School math teachers have created a calendar to help your child retain his/her skills and to provide valuable practice over the summer. You should feel free to discuss the work with your child. Math discussions are an important way for students to remember and retain concepts. Students may enjoy working with peers or parents as they practice. Again, this calendar is simply an opportunity for your child to maintain skills. The calendar and answer key are on the Wayland Middle School website and can be downloaded and printed at your convenience. Hard copies of the calendar are available through your child's math teacher or in the school office.

A few things to note:

- Our goal is to have students experience doing math over the summer
- Teachers hope that everyone attempts the packet.
- Teachers will be collecting packets (complete or incomplete)
- Packets will not be graded
- There is no penalty for not doing the packet
- Students may get help from sibling, parent, etc.
- If a student doesn't know how to do a certain problem, it's OK to skip it and move on to another problem.
- It is OK to use extra paper if more space is needed to work the problems

## **6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders - Rather do your summer work on the computer?**

### **Check this out!**

In the middle school we use a web-based program called ASSISTments to help students with math problems. The summer math questions can be completed on paper (attached) or using ASSISTments. Your child may do either one.

To sign up for ASSISTments follow these simple directions.

1. Go to [www.Assistments.org](http://www.Assistments.org) and click on Register Now
2. Select 'Student' as the role. There is no registration code.
3. Follow the prompts to answer the questions to fill-in your state, district, Wayland Middle School and personal information. When prompted for the grade, select the grade that you will start in this fall.
4. Once registered make sure the Tutor tab at the top of the page is selected.
5. Enroll in a class and where it says to choose your teacher select Summer Math Homework .
6. Select the grade you are entering, Section 1, and click Enroll.
7. To get to the summer packet click on the 'Show Assignments' link at the right.

**Already have an ASSISTments account?** Simply sign-in and enroll in the Summer Math Homework class (see step #5 above). Then follow steps 6 and 7.

Below are some ideas of activities you can do every day with your child. On the reverse side of this letter is a list of games and websites that you can use with your child to assist the development of good math skills; such as spatial recognition, sequencing, patterns, logical deduction, visual memory and number facts. These games can help strengthen a mathematical foundation that is further developed within the math classroom. Most of the items on the list are commercial games. They are motivational and, with parent involvement, these games are an excellent way to get your child to communicate concepts while sharpening thinking skills. They also provide an opportunity for discussion and questions; encouraging your child to evaluate answers, draw conclusions and strengthen reasoning skills. Games are a low stress way to engage your child in math while developing necessary skills. Something as simple as playing cribbage daily will improve your child's number sense, addition skills and number recognition. We hope you will find time to use some of these suggestions and that you enjoy playing them.

Thank you for your support. We are looking forward to an exciting and enriching year with your child.

Sincerely,

The Wayland Middle School Math Department