



Mackrille School

December Newsletter

2022



Principal's Message:

It's hard to believe how quickly this school year is going by. Our students continue to work hard and enjoy many wonderful activities within our school and community.

I would like to thank everyone that made our Book Fair and WHEAT collection a success. This month we will be collecting toys for Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. More information will be sent home with your child.

We had our first school award ceremony in November. Students from each classroom were honored as Student of the Month, Creative Genius, Science Rockstar, Reading All-Star and Classroom Athlete. Congratulations to all the students honored last month.

Regular school attendance is very important to success in school. Every month students who have perfect attendance are honored with a certificate and their pictures are posted in the hallway. To help ensure that your child has the best opportunity for success, please make sure he/she is in school everyday. However, if your child is sick make sure to call the attendance line and leave a detailed message with your student's name, classroom and reason for absence.

Remember that the weather has changed and the students will continue to go outside for recess weather permitting. Please dress your children accordingly with hats, scarves, gloves and winter coats. If you are in need of assistance with winter apparel, please call the main office.

The Mackrille Staff would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy Holiday season!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please make an appointment, call or email me.

Taryn.Driend@whschools.org or 203-931-6820.

Taryn S. Driend



Telephone

(203) 931-6820

FAX

(203) 931-6823

Attendance Line

(203) 931-6829

Calendar

Yale Children's Toy Closet

December 7 Half Day of School

December 9 PJ Day for Kids \$1.00

December 14 4th Grade Choral Concert
6:00 PM-7:00PM

December 15 Report Cards (Email)

December 23 Pajama Day \$1.00

December 23 Half Day of School

K-4th 8:55A.M.-1:20 P.M.

Pre-K A.M. 8:55 A.M.-11:05A.M.

Pre-K P.M. 11:10 A.M.-1:20 P.M.

December 26-January 2 Winter Recess



MATH FACT FLUENCY: MORE THAN JUST SPEED AND ACCURACY

By Shelley Gray

Math fact fluency is often considered to be a quick and accurate recall of facts. However, it's important to note that fast and accurate does not mean that a student is fluent. Fact fluency is about much more than speed and accuracy. When a student is truly fluent, he is accurate, flexible, efficient, and uses appropriate strategies. Let's discuss each one of these so that we really understand what fluency means.

ACCURACY

Accuracy means the correct answer.

EFFICIENCY

Efficiency refers to a quick recall of a fact. Typically, we look for recall within 1-3 seconds; however, a recall may take longer with more advanced thinking strategies.

FLEXIBILITY

In my opinion, this is the most important indicator of fluency, but it is often the one that gets the least amount of attention. Flexibility means that students are comfortable thinking about a problem in more than one way and can build connections and relationships between facts. For example, a student might show flexibility if he understood that to solve 8×6 , he could use 4×6 and then double it. Using the **CRA Model**, **Concrete** (using hands-on manipulatives) **Representational** (draw representations) **Abstract** (digits and symbols), is essential for helping students visualize math so that they can become flexible thinkers.

APPROPRIATE STRATEGY USE

Appropriate strategy use means that the student selects a strategy that makes sense for the problem. The tendency to see fluency **ONLY** as quick and accurate recall results in many of our students' failure. It creates gaps in students' understanding that can hinder them as they progress through school. Rather than math becoming an exploration, it becomes a monotonous, seemingly irrelevant routine of memorization.

FACT FOCUS BY GRADE LEVEL

Kindergarten - addition and subtraction within 5

Grade 1 - addition and subtraction within 20

Grade 2 - addition and subtraction within 100

Grade 3 - multiplication and division facts 0-12

Grade 4 - multiplication and division facts 0-12