

Sunshine Math Information

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Kittredge School PTO welcomes you and your child to the Sunshine Math Program. We are pleased to once again offer this supplemental program which was developed by the Florida Panhandle Education Consortium. It is designed to enhance your child's journey through mathematics and provide a challenging supplement to the math homework

Sunshine Math consists of one worksheet per week containing an average of 8-10 problems. The program runs for 20 weeks for children in grades 1-5 (beginning in November) and 10 weeks for both half and full day Kindergarten classes (beginning in January). The problems are "ranked" according to difficulty using a "star" system. For example, this problem from a fourth grade sunshine math worksheet is worth two stars:

** 5. The sum of two whole numbers is 72. Their difference is 48. What are the two numbers?
Answer: _____ and _____

There are three steps in Sunshine Math:

- 1) Worksheets and answers will be available on the website. Print off weekly worksheets and answers or have your child work from the computer. Encourage and facilitate problem solving. Allow time during the week for your child to think about the problems. It is fine to read problems together and brainstorm ideas but please let the child guide the conversations. It is not unusual for a child to skip difficult problems or to get the wrong answer. Please remind your child that s/he is not expected to know all the answers. The process of reading, understanding and approaching the problem is a valuable step in solving many types of problems.
- 2) Correct the worksheets with your child. The commentary for each problem will describe the answer and often how the answer was found. If your child has not been able to figure out a problem you can explain it to them and have them work it out. Decide together if full or partial credit should be awarded for those problems.
- 3) Record the number of stars. Tracking stars is voluntary. The focus of the program is on individual achievement but many children appreciate having their extra efforts recognized. If your child would like to track stars simply e-mail the weekly total to your grade coordinator. Grade coordinators will keep track of earned stars and certificates will be issued after completing a group of worksheets. The certificates will indicate the total number of stars earned to date.

We hope families find the program beneficial, challenging and fun. Good luck!