

Dear Parents,

We welcome your child and you to SUNSHINE MATH, a program designed to enhance your child's journey through mathematics. By expressing an interest in more challenging problem solving, your child has taken the first step toward becoming an independent learner who is able to address many types of problems.

This is a voluntary, self-motivated do-at-home math enrichment program. Each Monday a new worksheet of problems and the answer sheet for the previous week's problems will be ready for you to print out on the website. Each problem is ranked according to its level of difficulty. The more stars you see beside a problem, the higher the level of difficulty, and the more stars your child can earn for solving it. Send the corrected worksheet in via your child's backpack and we will keep track of their earned stars.

Your role in SUNSHINE MATH is to encourage and facilitate problem solving. During the week, allow time for your child to think about each problem. You may need to read the problem to your child, explaining any new words encountered. Feel free to suggest a strategy for solving the problem, offer "counters" or manipulatives, or listen as your child shares her or his thinking, but please **DO NOT GIVE THE ANSWERS**. In order for this program to be effective, the thinking must be done by the students.

It is normal for a child NOT to be able to complete every problem on a worksheet. The process of reading, understanding and approaching the problems is a valuable step in solving many types of problems. Remind your child that she or he is not expected to know the answers to every problem.

Thank you for allowing your child the chance to embark on this mathematical adventure. Any questions? Please don't hesitate to contact Doreen Albrecht at 978-689-0931 or email doreenla@comcast.net.