

DEL MAR MATH NEWS

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KEEP CALM - AND DO MORE MATH!!

Smarter Balanced Testing is Coming!

The first week in May begins the standardized testing period at Del Mar. The MATH PORTION will begin the week of May 8th.

Each of the math classes – in all grade levels - will be taking some time away from our “regularly scheduled program” to devote classroom instruction to instructions and review of the skills and concepts we have studied this far this year.

In this month’s Parent Tip for helping your child with math are a couple of ideas to consider. Another “tip” is to try to avoid scheduling appointments that pull your child out of school during this time. Our schedules are carefully constructed to give large, uninterrupted time to take these tests. When a child misses a testing period, it will result in their being pulled from a “normal” class period(s) and thereby missing important material and instruction in order to make up the missed test.

Math Placement 4-1-1:

The Del Mar Math Department is in the process of determining math placements for next year. Because of the demands of the new standards, the new Smarter Balanced Assessments, and the rigorous Pathway 2 courses, it is important that students are placed into the appropriate class so that they will succeed not only next year, but through high school and beyond. Math placement at Del Mar for each student is based on the following four criteria:

1. Results of a READINESS Test. These tests will be administered and sent away for scoring within 2-3 weeks. Results will be available to the Math Department in late May. (To be recommended for Pathway 2, students are expected to score 84% or above).
2. Math test and quiz scores from this year’s math class (an overall average of 90% or above).
3. Results of a problem solving performance assessment task (score of at least 7 on a 10-point rubric).
4. Results of an end-of-year cumulative standards-based test (90% or above).

UPCOMING “Stuff” and FYI:

Math Club: Thursdays 7:30 am – CyberLounge

Math-ilicious: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. mornings from 7:30 to 8:00 in Room 6. Drop by to get help with Study Island CCSS practice, to make quiz corrections, or for any general math help.

REMINDERS:

*All quizzes may be corrected for up to half points back.

**All exams may be retaken after a “corrections sheet” is completed & turned in. (You may not have any missing homework.)

*****Study Island** and **DreamBox** comprise the bulk of our DM homework program. While they do not affect the academic grade directly, they DO get figured into the Citizenship/Habits of Learning grade.

DreamBox is adaptive in nature and meets each student where they are. It shores up foundational skills and concepts. **Study Island** focuses on the current (or recent) mathematical standards that we are working on in class. It is terrific for providing rigor and application/ transference practice. The two programs work very well in conjunction with one another and provide underlying support to our classroom work.

For test and quiz dates, as well as project due dates, PLEASE see the grade level calendars posted on <http://rusdmath.weebly.com/>

Parent Tip #7 for Helping your Child with Math!

How can I help my child be at their very best on the days when standardized tests are being administered? Be SURE they:

1. Get a FULL and GOOD night’s rest!!
2. Eat a healthy, well-balanced breakfast the morning of the test.
3. Bring a healthy snack and a POSITIVE ATTITUDE to school!

Standardized testing can be a positive experience. If students are prepared, and parents are supportive, students can succeed on these tests and walk away feeling confident.