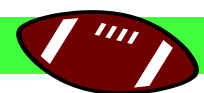


Team Brackett News



November 20, 2013

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New Math and Reading

This fall Detroit Public Schools adopted new math and reading programs. These programs operate a little different than we have in the past. Please read the following descriptions carefully so that you will be more aware of what is happening in class.

Success For All

Success for All, or SFA, is our new reading program. In the fall all first grade students were given a screening test to determine their level of letter sound awareness and how many words they could read. The older students used STAR reading, a computer based program, to determine their reading level. The results for all students in the school were entered into a computer program that ranked students according to their current **reading level** instead of their **grade level**. Reading groups were established based on those results.

From 10:15 - 11:45 every day, students move to their reading group. All teachers in the building are teaching SFA



during that time. So your student may not be staying with me for reading. Depending on their level some are going to Mr. Moroni, Mr. Abraham or Mrs. Powe for reading group. Not all the students in their group are first graders but they should all be at the same reading level. Ask your child who their SFA teacher is.

SFA Homework - Regardless of the teacher, all students should be bringing home a reading book with a homework bookmark EVERY NIGHT. The book should be read and homework completed in addition to regular class homework. Parents must sign the bookmark nightly. I have included an SFA reminder on our weekly homework sheet. **Homework is a part of their SFA grade.**

Math

Our new math series has been a big challenge for my first graders and for me as well. The new program was designed to go with the new Common Core State Standards that Michigan has adopted.

In the past first grade has spent most of the fall getting students ready for addition and subtraction, focusing on numbers. A lot of time was

Math con't.

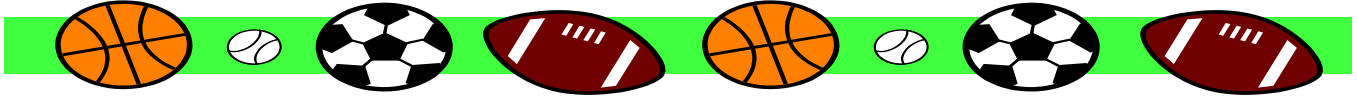
spent looking at all the different ways to make a number. For instance, 8 can be made with a 4 and 4, a 2 and 6, etc..

The new math jumps right into addition and subtraction without this preparation time. At the same time that students are being asked to learn how to add and subtract they are exploring the relationship between the two and even using subtraction to compare two numbers. This has been very difficult and frustrating for most students. There have been many tears shed in our class during math time.

Because of this, I would like to schedule parent meetings as we begin each new chapter in math. I will show you what your child is being asked to do and the format they are supposed to do it in. It is very different from what you may have seen. I am asking that you make an effort to attend these meetings so you can better help your child. I will send a notice a week in advance.

Please read the back for our regular newsletter.

Team Brackett News



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Mark the dates...



Nov. 28, 29 - No School
Thanksgiving

December 6 - No School
Parent Teacher
Conferences