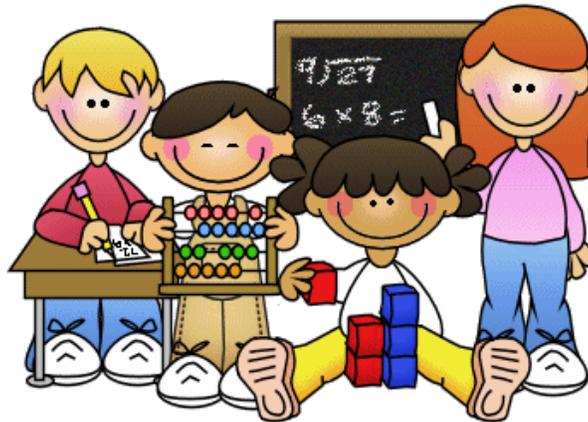


## Elementary Mathematics-Overview and Tips

The Ramsey School District is dedicated to providing a high quality math curriculum to all students. The elementary mathematics program focuses on both content and skills, with the goal of having students successfully apply their skills to problem solving situations. This kind of learning environment also fosters self-direction, discovery, creativity, and curiosity.

Although the acquisition of basic knowledge and skills is important, there is an even greater need to assure students have a conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts. At the elementary level, Ramsey aims to foster number sense and the relationships and structures of numbers. Students utilize a variety of resources to support a well-rounded mathematics education and build a deep understanding of concepts. Not only do students demonstrate their understanding through short-answer and open-ended questions, but they also have the opportunity to apply their knowledge, skills, and understanding in real-world, authentic contexts. Students will use the [21st Century Skills](#) they have been learning to attack and solve performance tasks. They have the opportunity to verbalize and share their thoughts and strategies and gain insights from their classmates. Assessment is daily and ongoing, which allows teachers to monitor student progress and implement appropriate interventions and extensions.

The Ramsey School District values a joint effort between home and school. We thank you for your support as we strive to provide the best education for your child.



## Monthly Tip:

Math is Everywhere!



Math is used in everyday life by people of all ages. Making math a part of your daily activities will help strengthen your child's understanding of both math concepts and the world around him/her.

There are many ways to support your child at home by incorporating math into your daily activities. Make math fun by trying some of the ideas below:

### **Grades K-3:**

- Look for examples of symmetry in nature all around the yard.
- Have your child read the thermometer and compare the temperature in the morning, afternoon, and night or graph the temperature each day.
- Collect items in nature and use your collection to create a real life graph. Did you collect more sticks or leaves? How many more?
- Make paper snowflakes and discuss if they are symmetrical or not
- Read math picture books!
- Make a snowman using cotton balls. Have your child count and group the cotton balls to make the snowman's head and body. What other shaper are needed for the eyes, nose, mouth, and arms.
- Use sidewalk chalk to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.
- Play "How many sticks can you pick up off of the lawn in 60 seconds?" Once the sticks are collected, group the sticks into piles of 3, 4, or 5. "How many groups can you make?" "Are there any left over?"
- Estimate and find the actual number of cups, pints, quarts, or gallons it takes to fill a baby pool, trash can, bucket, etc.
- Play a math related board game. (Life, Checkers, Battleship, Sorry, etc.)
- Play a math related card game. (Go Fish, Old Maid, Uno, War, etc.)
- Create a project using shapes. What can you make using cutouts of triangles, circles, and squares?
- Have your child count your change after a shopping trip. Do you have enough money to buy that \_\_\_\_\_?

**Grades 4-5:**

- Have your child measure the rooms in your house and find the area and volume of the rooms. Convert the measurements between feet and inches.
- Have your child help plan a party. How many cups, plates, napkins, and utensils do you need? How many people are coming? How many of each item are in each bag? How many bags of each item do you need? What will the cost be?
- Cook! Have your child help you double or triple a recipe or cut it in half. How much of each ingredient will you need? Practice those fractions!
- Use sidewalk chalk to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.
- Watch a sport! What do those batting averages actually mean? How can you tell who ran a faster race? What is a tenth of a second? Decimals can be found in many sports!
- Figure out your allowance. If you earn \$20 a week, how long would it take you to buy a new snowboard?
- Play a math related board game. (Life, Checkers, Battleship, Sorry, etc.)
- Play a math related card game. (Go Fish, Old Maid, Uno, War, etc.)
- Create a coordinate grid of Ramsey! What ordered pair would represent your house? What ordered pair would locate Dater? The high school? McFarren Field?