

Game of the Month



Time for Games?

You are in the middle of your homeschooling day. You want your students to continue their schoolwork, but they would rather play. Could playing a game actually be a wise choice for this point in your day? A well-chosen game can actually provide the perfect opportunity for parents and student(s) to sit down and interact together in a fun, informal learning situation. Games are not only inherently motivating, but they also promote deep thinking, taking chances, learning from mistakes, social skills, and many opportunities for parents to model these skills while playing right along with their student(s) and asking focused questions.

Mathematical Practice Standards (MP)

The California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics include 8 Mathematical Practice (MP) Standards that apply to all grade levels K-12. These MP Standards can also be applied and developed through repeated game play. The 8 standards are:

MP₁ Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

MP₅ Use appropriate tools strategically.

MP₂ Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

MP₆ Attend to precision.

MP₃ Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

MP₇ Look for and make use of structure.

MP₄ Model with mathematics.

MP₈ Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

What is Game of the Month?

Game of the Month is a collection of engaging family games to be played at home. The Hickman Charter School Community of all ages will join together in playing one of these games each of our 5 learning periods, to have fun and to try to get to the bottom of the strategies/number concepts that make for successful game play, by playing these games many times throughout the learning period. Our K-1 students will be playing number games from the Tiny Polka Dot game collection while our 2nd through 8th grade students will play classic games of strategy with the game pieces provided at the beginning of the year. Along with your game for each learning period will come instructions for the game, questions to ask/think about as you play, some variations of the game to try, and references to the MP Standards that can be addressed while playing the game.

Family Game of the Month Get-Togethers

Once a month from September through March, we will also be offering an opportunity for families to gather on campus to play Game of the Month games together. Bring your Tiny Polka Dot Game or game supplies and gather in the Auditorium after lunch on these Monday afternoons to enjoy some fun with other HCS families. Game time will be from 12:45 to 1:45 on the Monday afternoons listed below. We will also revive some of our games from last year at these events.

September 16
October 14
March 16

November 18
December 16

January 27
February 24

Tiny Polka Dot Game Teaching Opportunities

For our Kindergarten and 1st grade families, at the end of each learning period your Education Coordinator will invite your child to teach them how to play one of the Tiny Polka Dot games that they played during that learning period. With this opportunity in mind, take time to have your child practice the role of teaching the game to others so he or she will be confident with this skill before your meeting.

Role of Parent

- Learning takes time, so create a positive environment for playing the game numerous times with your student(s) and keep it fun so they will want to play again and again. This is how they will be able to discover some of the deeper strategies of the game.
- Encourage strategic thinking and discussion.
- Model positive game play and strategies by trying new strategies yourself and discussing things that worked or didn't work for you with your student(s).
- Ask questions that provide opportunities for your student(s) to verbalize their thinking and the choices that they make, and that get them thinking more deeply.
- Celebrate good insights that students make and their efforts to try new strategies even when they don't seem to work out.

Role of Student

- Play the Game of the Month numerous times throughout the month with family members and friends.
- Think about strategies that might improve your chance of winning including whether or not it is better to go first or second. Then explore these strategies.
- Talk about what you learned with your Education Coordinator or teach them your Tiny Polka Dot game at the end of the learning period and be ready to answer questions about it.
- Play fair and have fun!

Submit a Photo, Win a Free Family Game!

Toward the end of the learning period, any family or student who submits a photo of them enjoying the HCS Game of the Month will be included in a drawing for a free family game from the HCS Family Game Collection. If you would like to write a few words about your experience with the Game of the Month, that would be great too! Submit your photos and comments to GOM@hickmanschools.org before the end of the learning period. Submissions can also be mailed to, or dropped off at the school attention David Meyer. **Be sure to include the name(s) and grade(s) of all students included in the picture so that we can enter each one in the drawing for that learning period.**

** Check out last year's Games of the Month by visiting our website at <https://hcs.hickmanschools.org/game-of-the-month.html>*