



Newsletter Math



An underlying strand that is woven throughout the California Mathematics Standards is *Mathematical Reasoning*. Beginning in Kindergarten, our children are asked to make choices about strategies for approaching problems and use them effectively, explain their reasoning, make precise calculations, and check the reasonableness of their solutions. Newsletter Math is one way in which you can encourage your child to develop strategies for approaching non-routine problem situations. Present them with the appropriate problem situation; encourage them to come up with an approach (this may take some direction at first) and to follow through with it. Persistence is a key to problem solving, but don't be afraid to put it away and get it out again a few days later. Talk about the math as they do it and encourage them to explain their thinking to you, and then to me in writing (dictation is great with pre-writers). Encourage creativity! You may be surprised to find their unique approaches to be very successful. Use the checklist below as a guide.

Solution Checklist

On My paper . . .

- I wrote my name (first and last), grade level, and the date.**
- I showed my computation (where appropriate).**
I explained what each number refers to (such as 15 boys or 6 inches)
- I included the complete answer.**
I explained how I know that my answer is correct.
- I clearly explained in writing how I solved the problem.**
I explained what patterns I found.
I explained each step and why I used it.
I explained why I used the strategy I did for solving the problem.
- I used tools like manipulatives, pictures, tables, or graphs to help show how I solved the problem.**
I explained how these tools fit the problem.

Tasks are listed by grade level. Students are encouraged to complete their grade level problem and are welcome to attempt problems at other grade levels if they like. All participants whose solutions are received *by the end of the month* will receive personal feedback on their work by mail and a coupon for a small prize.

Please mail completed problems to: Hickman Charter School
Attn: Newsletter Math Solutions
13306 4th Street
Hickman, CA 95323

