Dear Parents, June 2, 2016

A question we seem to get asked quite often by parents is "What can I do to help my child in seventh grade?" Both parents and teachers want students to be successful, so making sure students enter seventh grade with a strong understanding of their foundational language arts and mathematical skills is crucial.

If students aren't actively reading or practicing math skills, then regression is likely to occur. Rising seventh graders should have a strong understanding of the skills listed on the following pages. To ensure that your child is prepared to enter the seventh grade, the following resources can be utilized to reinforce or strengthen your child's foundational skills.

Thanks for partnering with us to plan ahead for a successful seventh grade year!

WMS ELA/Math Teachers

Informational/Helpful Websites:

www.funbrain.com/grammar/

www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/flashcards

www.funtrivia.com/playquiz/quiz125805e69020.html\

www.k12reader.com/4-sentence-types/

www.mathisfun.com

www.kahnacademy.com

Important ELA Skills

- Four Sentence Types:
    1. declarative (.) – a statement to give information
    2. imperative (. or !) – issues a command or request
    3. interrogative (?) – asks a question
    4. exclamatory (!) – express strong emotion

- Clauses
    1. Dependent: a group of words with a subject and a verb. Begins with a subordinate conjunction and does not express a complete thought.
        before I ate lunch **when the fire alarm sounded** **if it rains**
    2. Independent: A sentence (subject and verb) that expresses a complete thought.
        I ate lunch. **The fire alarm sounded.** **It rained.**

- Various Sentence Structures
    1. Simple – has one subject and one or more verbs; also known as an independent clause
        The cat climbed up the tree.
    2. Compound – has two subjects and two or more verbs; two independent clauses joined by conjunctions FANBOYS or a semicolon (;)
        The cat climbed up the tree, so the dog barked at it.

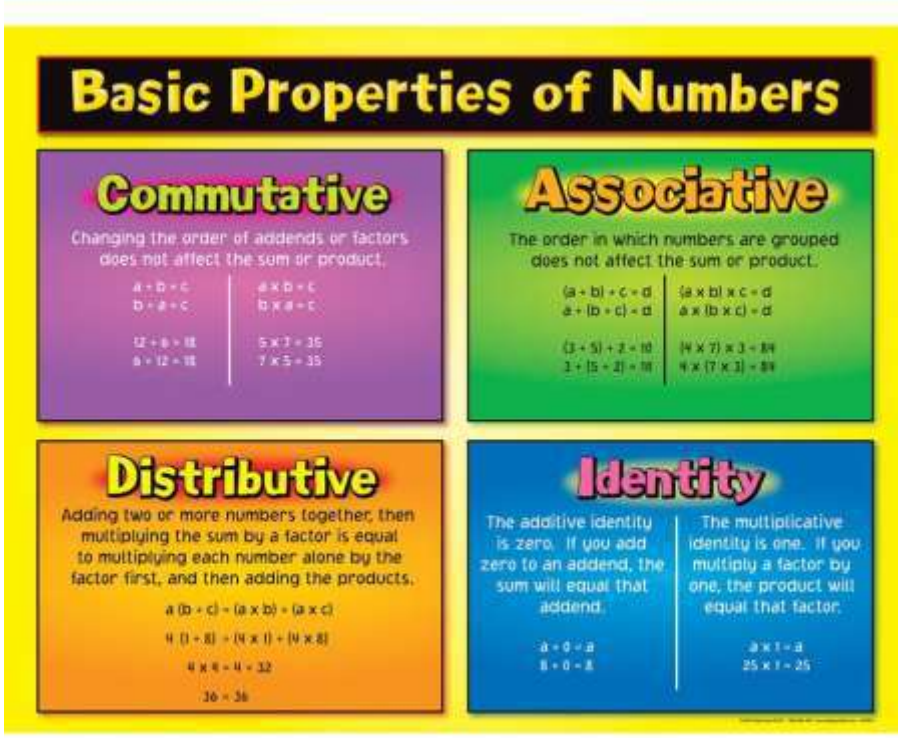
- Parts of Speech
    1. Noun – a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea
    2. Pronoun – a word that replaces a noun or groups of nouns
    3. Verb – a word that shows an action or a state of being
    4. Adjective – a word that describes a noun (What kind? Which one? How many?)
    5. Adverb – a word that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb (How? When? Where? To what extent?)
    6. Preposition – a word that shows a relationship between a noun or shows location
    7. Conjunction – a word used to join or connect parts of a sentence
    8. Interjection – a word used to show strong emotion or feeling

- Character Types
    1. Protagonist – main character, hero
    2. Antagonist – a character against the protagonist
    3. Round – a major character that is fully developed/described by the author
    4. Flat – a minor character that plays an important role in a story

- Figurative Language
    1. Simile – comparison of two unlike things using like or as **(as red as an apple)**
    2. Metaphor – comparison of two unlike things without using like or as **(You are my sunshine.)**
    3. Alliteration – a device in which a number of words, having the same first consonant sound, occur close together in a series **(Sally sells seashells by the seashore.)**
    4. Personification - a figure of speech where human qualities are given to animals, objects, or ideas **(The trees dance in the wind.)**
    5. Onomatopoeia - a word, which imitates the natural sounds of a thing **(Cuckoo! Bam! Splat!)**
    6. Hyperbole - an exaggeration of ideas for the sake of emphasis **(I told you a million times!)**
    7. Idiom - a set expression or a phrase with a literal and figurative meaning **(It's raining cats and dogs!)**
    8. Imagery - writing that appeals to our physical senses **(The clean, crisp smell of rain filled the air as the gray clouds floated across the blue sky.)**

Important Math Skills

1. Multiplication facts to 12 x 12
2. Add, subtract, multiply and divide decimal numbers
3. Add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions
4. Understand and follow the order of operations to solve all problems (PEMDAS)
   Parentheses or Grouping first, then solve exponents, then multiply or divide (left to right), finally add or subtract (left to right)
5. Solve one step equations (ex. $3 + x = 24$)
6. Simplify and solve expressions (ex. Solve if $x = 4$; $3x + 2$) (ex. $2a + 4b + 5a = 7a + 4b$)
7. Basic understanding of integers (absolute value and the number line)
8. Understand concepts of ratios and unit rates (ex. 3 cats to 2 dogs = 3:2 or 3/2 or 3 to 2)
   (ex. $20 for 4 books = $5 for 1 book)
9. Use coordinate pairs to find a point on a graph
10. Use the properties to solve problems (associative, commutative, distributive, etc.)
    Associative Property $(3 + 2) + 4 = 3 + (2 + 4)$ or $(4 \times 2) \times 6 = 4 \times (2 \times 6)$
    Commutative Property $8 + 3 = 3 + 8$ or $5 \times 7 = 7 \times 5$
    Distributive Property $3\,(2 + 4) = 3(2) + 3(4)$



MULTIPLICATION CHART

x	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
0													
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
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