



Mendham Township Middle School



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February 12, 2007

Re: Calculators / Math Facts / Conferences

Dear Fifth Grade Parents and Guardians,

Calculators: We have just been informed that the 2007 fifth grade NJASK state test beginning on March 19th will require our students to utilize calculators to perform calculations directly with fractions - without converting them to decimals first. As this “scientific” function is not found on the basic household calculators owned by most of our 5th graders, we are asking that you purchase the *Texas Instruments TI34II Calculator*, which ranges in price from about \$15 to \$25 based on where you shop. Although almost all scientific calculators have the capacity to perform the required calculations, the *Texas Instruments TI34II Calculator* is a component of the sixth grade supply list, so we highly recommend purchasing that particular model. In that your child will already own this unit in fifth grade, there will be no need to purchase it in preparation for the sixth grade this summer. As we just recently learned of this requirement, we are in the process of ‘rush-ordering’ a classroom set of these calculators so that Mrs. BaRoss can take a few periods to teach our students some of its required critical functions. In the meantime, we ask that you please secure a *Texas Instruments TI34II Calculator* by March 1st and send it to school with your fifth grader. If you have difficulty securing the calculator, please contact me and I will assist you immediately. I apologize for any inconvenience. **Please note that the HSA & Mendham Township Schools District will facilitate an interactive state testing parent program on February 28th at the Elementary School from 7 – 9 pm.**

Math Facts: As noted in a “Math Fact Fluency – Action Plan” letter that was sent home to you on February 2nd, our fifth graders will participate in a math fact fluency assessment on February 27th, which will include multiplication and division facts 0 – 12. These assessments (multiplication & division) will encompass 80 facts in 3 minutes. A subsequent ‘fact strengthening class’ during recess will follow the assessments for students scoring below 70%. If you have any questions and or concerns regarding the scheduling of this extra support class, please contact me at your convenience.

Conferences: Formal parent/teacher conferences will be held March 20/21/22 – details of these conferences are forthcoming. Please remember that we can not facilitate a conference for every student in the three day formal conference period. Therefore, I encourage you to make an appointment to meet with your child’s teachers whenever you feel it is necessary. Our fifth grade team is available to meet at 12:45 pm during the regular school day. If you would like a conference outside of the formal conference week, please contact your child’s teacher via telephone and or email. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding conferences.

Very truly yours,

cc: Dr. Christine Johnson, Superintendent of Schools