



BRINGING LIFE TO LEARNING SINCE 1919

Dear Families,

This summer I am asking your students to keep a math journal. Each student will be asked to complete at least 10 journal entries. This can be kept in a spiral notebook, or composition book and we will continue to journal in it over the course of the 2023-2024 school year.

It is important for students to recognize math in the world around them, and make connections between their everyday experiences and math. Attached are some ideas for entries, but these are not the only options students can write about. Each entry should be at least a half a page detailing the connections between the experience and math; or the entry can be a collection of data represented in a chart, table, or graph with some observations about the data. Students are encouraged to use illustrations/pictures to support their solutions/explanations.

Here are some ideas for math journal entries. These are ideas, you are welcome to complete them, or you can use them to spark ideas of your own!

- Ice Cream Math- You want to get a 2-scoop ice cream from an ice cream shop. How many different kinds of 2-scoop cones can be made with 10 flavors?
- More Ice Cream-What ice cream is the best deal, the cheapest price per scoop (take the price and divide by the number of scoops you are buying? What is the cost per scoop in the 2, 3, 4, etc scoops?
- Mini golf- If you go mini golfing, be sure to keep an accurate score card. Create a line plot with your score on each hole. What score did you get most often (mode)? What was your maximum score? What was your minimum score? What was your average number of shots per hole?
- A Day in the Life- Keep a time schedule of everything you do for 24 hours (not every little thing like I tied my shoe, but all of the major activities for the day) with a start and end time. Be sure a complete 24 hours are recorded. Then group each activity into a category (such as sleep, leisure, eating, chores, movement, etc). Find the total time (in hours and minutes) of each category. What activity did you spend the most time doing? Least? How much more time did you spend on the longest activity versus the shortest? Include other observations about the time you spend on activities.
- Sleeping- Record the time you go to bed and the time you wake up each day for a week, and calculate the number of hours and minutes you spent sleeping each night. Create a table and bar graph to represent this data.

- Sports- playing a sport this summer? Keep track of one of the statistics in your sport. Examples- for each game record the number of hits and at bats you had, and at the end of the summer, calculate your batting average by dividing the number of hits by the number of at bats. Basketball- record the number of points you score each game, and at the end of the season, find your average points per game by dividing the number of points by the number of games played.
- Road trip? Going on a trip this summer? Predict what color car you will see most often, then create a tally chart to record the color of each vehicle you pass. Are all the colors about the same? Which color was most often? Least often? What was the difference between the most often and least often? Did the most popular color surprise you?
- Beach-record the water temperature each day for the week. What was the average temperature? What was the range in temperatures (highest minus the lowest)? Was there a mode? If you record for longer than a week, put the temperatures on a line plot. Were any of the temperature outliers (not fitting in with the others)?
- Sudoku- print and cut out a sudoku for your journal and complete it!
- Extreme tic tac toe- teach someone at home how to play extreme tic tac toe and keep the game boards in your notebook. Have a family/friends tournament if there are enough people around to play!
- Geometry- Go on a continuous geometry scavenger hunt. Take photos of different geometry concepts, print them out, glue them into your math journal and write what they are showing. See a tree branch that connects to the trunk forming an acute angle? See symmetry out in nature? Do you see things that are parallel or perpendicular? Are there any 2-D or 3-D shapes you see? Include angles, rays, parallel lines, perpendicular lines, shapes, lines intersecting, etc. Be observant!

Feel free to come up with your own ideas. I can't wait to see all the fun ways you have interacted with math this summer! If you have any questions, please email me [kharp@themeadowbrookschoo.org](mailto:kharp@themeadowbrookschoo.org). Feel free to send me a picture of an entry you are extra proud of and excited to share!

Thank you for your help and support in your child's education.  
Have a great summer!

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