

Information for Parents About.....

SKYMATH: MAKING MATHEMATICAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH TEMPERATURE EXPLORATION

What Is SkyMath?

SkyMath is a mathematics teaching and learning unit for 5th through 8th grade students. Students learn mathematics through hands-on use of weather data. They use thermometers, computers, data loggers, the Internet, and other media sources, to collect and analyze data.

SkyMath was developed by a team of mathematicians, educators, curriculum specialists, and scientists, and was tested by teachers in classrooms for three years.

Why is SkyMath An Effective Way to Teach Math?

- SkyMath supports and enhances the regular math curriculum.
- SkyMath connects math learning to real-life applications.
- Students enjoy using the SkyMath materials. They are motivated to learn math.
- Technology enhances student learning.
- SkyMath integrates math and science content.
- SkyMath is flexible. Teachers can use it with a wide range of student math abilities and experiences.
- SkyMath is based on National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Standards. It aligns well with state and district mathematics standards.

What Do Students Learn Through SkyMath?

SkyMath strengthens basic math skills, deepens student understanding of mathematical concepts, and improves communication about mathematics.

SkyMath students learn to:

- Create and interpret different types of graphs
- Collect, sample, and analyze real-time data
- Use different measures of central tendency (mean, median, and mode)
- Work with the concepts of maximum, minimum, range, ratio, and rates of change
- Convert temperatures from one scale to another

In addition to SkyMath classroom activities, students use a thermometer to measure temperatures at home. Thermometers can usually be loaned by the school. No additional home resources are needed for SkyMath.

Where Can I Find Out More About SkyMath?

Ask your child's teacher or go to the SkyMath homepage on the World Wide Web. Download materials cost-free from the Internet.

<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/staff/blynds/Skymath.html>