

# Mathematically Speaking

## 6B

This group is making steady progress through their time T's and several have already received a certificate of completion! Last week, the students learned about the 4-step plan for solving problems. They have a handout on this. I would like the kids to follow this explanation rather than the one given in lesson 1.1. Students will use this in solving problems with varied strategies. We began working on a few problem solving strategies such as making a list and creating a table. Our quiz on these strategies last week Friday went very well. This is usually a more difficult chapter for the students but we will go slow, and I am providing many problems for practice. Students are encouraged to copy down the solutions as we go over them in class so they can practice with these problems as they prepare for quizzes and the test. This week, we will be looking for patterns to help us problem solve. We will also use geometric shapes, draw diagrams, and use simulation and experiments to help solve problems. Students are writing the strategies we use on an index card that they may use on homework, quizzes or the test. Students did a very nice job on their responses to the Gauss problem on our class Wiki page!! Be sure to check the Advanced Math homework site for current information about upcoming quizzes or tests!

## 7B

We began the year solidifying our computation skills, without the use of a calculator, with a review of adding and subtracting fractions, multiplying and dividing fractions and operations with decimals. Our first chapter had us revisiting powers, and square roots, order of operations, using variables in expressions and creating tables. This week, we will continue to explore patterns both geometrically and using our calculators. Wednesday, we will begin reviewing for our test on chapter 1 set for Monday. A quiz on lessons 1.5 and 1.6 will be tomorrow and a quiz on lessons 1.7 and 1.8 will be on Thursday. Be sure to check the Advanced Math homework site for current information about upcoming quizzes or tests!!

## 8B

A parent letter for chapter 1 was handed out at the beginning of our work in chapter 1. I hope you had a chance to look at it. Another parent letter for chapter 2 will be handed out when they return to class on Wednesday. It explains what each lesson is about in the chapter we are working in and even includes a few problems for practice as well. You may expect one of these parent notes at the beginning of each chapter. A practice test was posted on the class Wiki page for students to utilize in preparing for their test. The class can expect a popcorn party when they return for doing a great job on the chapter 1 test! We have begun chapter 2 which is going to cover properties of real numbers. We will revisit skills like adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers, using the distributive property and also learn a little bit about adding matrices, finding probability and odds.

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