

# Great Village Elementary School

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Dear Students & Parents

It is important for students to learn the basic math facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. When students know these facts, they can quickly retrieve them from memory (usually in 3 seconds or less). Ideally, through practice, over time students will have instant recall without using strategies. The expectations for each grade level are as follows:

**Grade Primary:** The primary year is spent exploring the numbers 1-10. Related to learning the basic math facts, students are expected to be able to describe the numbers 2-10 in two parts. For example, 5 can be described as “3 and 2”, and “4 and 1”.

**Grade One:** Students work extensively with numbers 1-20. Related to learning the basic math facts, students are expected to be able to describe the numbers 2-20 in two parts. For example, 15 can be described as “10 and 5”, “7 and 8”, etc. As well, students will explore a variety of situations where adding and subtracting are used to solve story problems. The symbols (+), (-), (=) are introduced. It is important for students to understand the equal sign (=) means both “equal” and “is the same as”.

**Grade Two:** By the end of Grade 2, students are expected to apply mental mathematics strategies to quickly recall basic addition facts to 18 and determine related subtraction facts. The main focus is on the recall of addition facts.

**Grade Three:** By the end of Grade 3, students are expected to apply mental mathematics strategies and number properties to recall the basic addition facts to 18 and related basic subtraction facts. This year, the main focus is on the recall of subtraction facts.

**Grade Four:** Students are expected to apply mental mathematics strategies to recall basic multiplication facts to  $9 \times 9$ , and to determine related division facts.

Students are taught strategies to make fact learning easier, and given opportunities to practice the facts at school. Most students also need practice at home. Teachers will keep parents informed of the strategies and facts students are currently working on, as well as information on student progress. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or myself at the school.

Sincerely,

Connie Smith  
Principal