

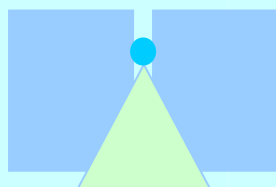
Math Motivators

Resources for Supporting Mathematics Achievement

[Ellipsis Math](#) ... home of teacher-developed summer math practice workbooks for grades 5 through high school geometry

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Summer Math Workbooks

5th - [Math
Sprints](#)

6th - [Math
Muscles](#)

7th - [Staying in
Shape](#)

8th or Pre-
Algebra [Weekly
Workouts](#)

[Pumping Up for
Algebra](#)

[Cross-Training
for Geometry](#)

[Parent Order
Form](#)

Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

We at [Ellipsis Math](#) believe that when students are curious, excited, and challenged, they are much more likely to engage with the mathematics we want them to learn. In each edition of this newsletter, we'll be highlighting instructional strategies that researchers have found enhance student achievement. We'll also be providing online resources that you and your students can use as motivating and effective learning tools!

Using Visuals in the Classroom

As educators, we know that our students acquire and store knowledge both linguistically (reading and listening) and nonlinguistically (through visual imagery and movement). Researchers have found that when students experience both systems of representing knowledge, they are better able to acquire and retain new concepts, skills, and strategies. A concise summary of key research findings in this area, as well as implementation ideas, is available at [Focus on Effectiveness](#) from the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.

Even college students report that they understand elementary mathematics so much better when they learn how to use diagrams and other mathematical models such as [fraction circles](#) and [double number lines](#)* for proportions and percents.

Three excellent (and free) resources for activities and ready-to-teach lesson plans that incorporate math visuals:

- [Fraction Lessons for the Middle Grades](#) - 48 lessons that carefully sequence hands-on and minds-on lessons for fraction understanding ([Level 1](#) and [Level 2](#)).
- [Teaching Fractions, Decimals, and Percentages](#) - Book 7 from the New Zealand Numeracy Project
- [The Algebra Lab](#) - a complete book of sequenced lessons for using hands-on algebra tiles in pre-algebra and algebra classrooms

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Web!
www.ellipsismath.com



Interactive Online Resources

Have you heard about math "applets" yet? They're basically interactive math programs that teachers and students can use online without needing to purchase any software. The [National Library of Virtual Manipulatives](#) is a wonderful (and free) resource for interactive online visual learning

experiences. You can use these as classroom demonstrations, during computer lab time, or as extra practice for students who need extra support. A couple of my favorites are:

- Color Chips -for visual [addition](#) and [subtraction](#) of integers
- [Sieve of Eratosthenes](#)
- [Grapher](#) - a tool for graphing and exploring functions

Visuals for Developing Academic Language in Mathematics

If you're looking for ways to help support academic language and vocabulary development in your classroom, feel free to download, print, and share our visual "word wall" cards for algebra and functions concepts at our [Ellipsis website](#). Both second language students and English-only students have reported that these mini-posters are powerful supports for their development of mathematical concepts and terminology. Word wall cards are in development for other areas of the curriculum - we'll let you know in future newsletters when new sets of cards are ready to download.

Summer Math Practice

As you've probably heard, students who do a little math and a little reading during the summer need less review time at the beginning of the next school year, and are more ready to make solid progress with the new year's standards. We've created math practice workbooks specifically for summer vacations. Based on a typical 10-week vacation, each workbook has 30 assignments - enough for 3 math practice sessions each week. And because we know that students need multiple opportunities to practice important skills, each basic skill is revisited several times during the summer program.

If you'd like to encourage your students to keep up with their math skills during the summer vacation, we've made it easy! Simply print out and send home the [Parent Order form](#) with your students, and your parents can do the rest.

We'd Love to Hear From You!

We're excited to be able to share some of the latest research in mathematics education, as well as some of the amazing online resources that can engage your students in mathematically powerful ways. Any feedback you'd like to share

would be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Valerie Henry, NBCT, Ed.D.
Ellipsis Math

* You'll find double number lines on p. 31 and 32 of this online book of fraction, decimal, and percent interactive lessons.

Subscribing and Unsubscribing Information

If a friend forwarded this newsletter to you, and you'd like to be sure to receive future issues, go to www.ellipsismath.com and add your name to our mailing list. If you want to opt out of our mailing list, feel free to send an "opt-out" e-mail to shenry@ellipsismath.com.