



THE COMMISSIONER'S
2020 SUMMER
MATH
CHALLENGE

A Message to Grade 1–12 Parents and Students

As a result of extended school closures in 2020 from COVID-19, it is now more important than ever to keep math skills sharp and prevent any further learning loss. In an effort to address this need, the State of Connecticut launched the [Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge](#). Why? Because being mathematically literate is important. Mathematically literate individuals are able to make informed decisions about the world around them and have the interest and confidence to meet the needs and challenges of today's society.



Mathematics is a core skill for life. It is necessary in a range of life skills.



Mathematics develops critical thinking skills. It requires logic and order to solve complex problems.



Mathematics enables us to explain how things work. It allows us to express our thoughts and ideas with clarity, coherence and precision.



Mathematics is essential in a world of constant change. New technologies are changing the way we live. It is becoming an increasingly important factor in a variety of industries.



Mathematics is the gateway to the future. Learning mathematics will enable students to become college and career ready.

What YOU Can Do to Encourage Mathematics



Encourage your child to use what is already known to find answers for new problems.



Ask your child to explain what she or he is doing when working on a problem. Be patient with unfamiliar methods, because they might be helpful to support your child's understanding of mathematics.



Encourage your child to stick with a problem that may seem difficult at first; working on different ways to solve a problem can be helpful.



Play math games with your child and ask for explanations of his or her strategies and solutions.



Use everyday activities to show your child how mathematics is used.



Reinforce mathematics by sharing your thinking as you work through real problems, especially if it takes some time and effort to find a solution.



Show enthusiasm for your child's study of mathematics.

To learn more about the Summer Math Challenge, contact the Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge project at 860-713-6557, or visit <https://www.ct.gov/sde>.