

Dear Incoming Parents and Students of Fifth Grade at Corwin,

The summer work for an incoming 5th grader at Corwin appears at first glance to be easy so as to not understand the importance of it. Attached are four forms of a timed multiplication test of the basic facts. It is imperative that all incoming 5th graders know their facts, and can pass a timed test in less than two minutes.

Each timed test has 40 problems which represent the 100 facts the students need to know **instantly**. On the test there is only one problem with a zero as a factor as that easy, and one problem with a one as a factor and one problem with a ten as a factor. Those types of multiplication facts are usually the first ones students master. The test also utilizes the commutative property which states for example that 3×4 is equal to 4×3 . Each test will have one of the sets of factors and not both.

Students have had timed tests before we are sure, but these facts need to be placed in permanent memory. Many times students have the times tables in short-term memory of “scratch-pad” memory and unless there is a conscious effort and repetition, most information stays in the “scratch pad” phase where it is readily available for only a short time. The basic multiplication facts need to be in permanent memory. This takes repetition and a determined focus to place the information there.

It is recommended that no matter how easy these tests seem, run-off many copies and test throughout the summer. Most students try to bring their time down to 30 seconds for this test as a challenge and motivation. Take a form and make flash cards to practice. We will give one of the four forms of this test starting day one.

Thank you,

Corwin Fifth Grade Team