

## What is the Accelerated Reading Program?

A critical component of Lincoln Academy's reading program is **Accelerated Reader (AR)**. **Accelerated Reader** is a computer based motivational program designed to encourage reading. At Lincoln Avenue Academy, our goal is to create a lifelong love of reading and improve student performance in reading while enhancing students' critical thinking skills. For the **AR** program, students read a book and then complete a computer generated multiple-choice test about the book. The student receives immediate quiz results and earns points for correct answers. The computer keeps a record of books read as well as the results of the quizzes and the points earned. These **AR** test questions ask students to recall basic or "right there" information about the story simply to verify that the book was read. Keep in mind that only 20% of our state assessment asks questions at this level. Reading is an important part of all curriculum areas at Lincoln Academy and the school-wide expectation for students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades is that students read daily for 30 minutes at home. Kindergarten students are to read each day with a parent with a monthly goal of 15-20 books. Research shows that students who read between 1 – 10 minutes daily achieve at the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests and reading 20 minutes per day increases achievement to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. We want each of our students to reach their potential, and develop a love for reading. The goal of all reading is to increase comprehension, so take the time to talk to your child about what he/she is reading. Additionally, spend some time each day listening to your child read orally. This is beneficial for all students, kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and enables you to hear your child read fluently, decode new words, and ultimately comprehend.



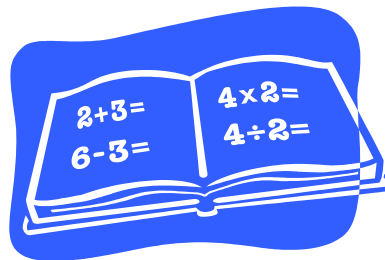
## Do You Speak S.M.A.D.?

For students to attain higher-order math skills the ability to recall basic math facts fluently is necessary. Knowledge of these basic facts needs to be developed to the point that they are done automatically. Without this fluent retrieval the development of higher-order mathematics skills — such as multiple-digit addition, subtraction and multiplication, long division, and fractions — may be severely impaired.

For example, children that do not know their basic addition and multiplication facts have an extremely difficult time learning long division because they have to devote their attention and memory resources in using primitive counting or multiplication strategies during the division process resulting in the failure to grasp the concept of long division.

At Lincoln Avenue Academy students practice and monitor their learning of basic math facts through the S.M.A.D. (Subtraction, Addition, Multiplication, Division) program. Students in each grade level answer 50 or 100 basic facts within a certain time period depending on the grade level. For specific grade level S.M.A.D. information contact your child's teacher.

Please help your child in his/her efforts to fluently learn basic facts so they can devote their energies to learning higher order math concepts. Basic facts can be practiced while driving in the car, with flashcards and computer games. A few minutes every day will make a big impact in your child's education and self confidence.



## 2, 4, 6, 8, Who Do We Appreciate?

Skip counting is arguably the most important skill in the development of higher math abilities. It is a crucial skill needed for the development of fluency in calculation, number sense, and as the basis of multiplication and division.

Skip counting helps students' fluency by moving them from calculating by counting by ones to using number facts. For example, instead of working out  $12 + 4$  by counting 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, students can immediately add 4, or possibly add 2 twice. This transition to using fluent number facts is a key to success throughout school.

Successful skip counting is an important mathematical foundation for developing number sense. It is used in counting money/change, rounding numbers, telling time, and predicting patterns.

By learning to skip count, children develop the idea of times (multiplication) as multiplication is actually repeated addition. If children know the skip counting by 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's and 10's in the lower grades, multiplication facts become much easier. It is extremely important for students to master this skill in the early elementary years for success in later math classes.

Ask your child to teach you this month's skip counting songs. You can also listen to your child's class singing their songs by going to...