



Dr. Sally K. Ride Elementary
21301 Seneca Crossing Drive
Germantown, Maryland 20876
301-353-0994



Christopher Wynne, Principal

August 31, 2009

Dear Sally Ride Community,

Beginning Monday, September 14, 2009, all Sally Ride students in grades 1-5 will be given math facts drills appropriately created for their grade level. We will continue with the math fact drills every Monday and your child's paper will be sent home on Thursday. These drills are not part of the student's math grade but are designed to support Sally Ride's goal of helping all students improve in mathematics. Please note that kindergarten basic facts will begin after Winter Break.

Educational researchers and cognitive scientists agree that the ability to recall basic math facts fluently is necessary for students to attain higher-order math skills. Practice sessions should be **short** (2 to 5 minutes, not 20) and **frequent** (twice a day rather than twice a week). **We believe your partnership with us in helping your child master their math facts is vital.** A list of web sites for basic facts practice are posted on Sally Ride's home page.

In order to help you better prepare your child for these drills a copy of the Sally Ride Basic Facts Pyramid is also attached. When a student successfully completes the objectives for a level, they move to the next level within their grade. Students will start at the level at which they ended during the 2008-2009 school year or at the beginning level for their grade if they are new to Sally Ride. When students complete all the levels for a grade, they will be given an award and a sample drill for the next grade.

Thank you in advance for your help and participation in this important program. We look forward to all of our Sally Ride students benefiting from this program and improving their math skills.

Sincerely,

Christopher Wynne
Principal