

Math Smarts

*Harvey Rice Elementary School
Cleveland, Ohio*

Math Smarts brought students and parents together in Harvey Rice Elementary School's computer lab to engage in friendly competition against each other in online math games. The math teacher and family liaison started Math Smarts to help parents familiarize themselves with computers, while reinforcing their children's math skills.

Once every quarter, parents and students worked at computers next to each other in the computer lab. The math teacher used the overhead to demonstrate how to use the computer programs and Internet. After the presentation, parents and students used the computers to visit math-related web sites made available by the district. For practice, the teacher challenged the students and parents with math or computer-related questions. The first person with the answer would raise his or her hand and say, "Math!"

Teachers publicized Math Smarts through fliers, newsletters, phone calls, and word of mouth. Math Smarts cost nothing to implement, since teachers used resources already available.

Parents thought Math Smarts was wonderful and were happy to know about the available math-related web sites. The practice was evaluated by math tests and student behavior. Harvey Rice Elementary School intends to expand this practice to a monthly or weekly event.

*Ruth Wetzel, Family Liaison
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