USNS
Universal Screeners for Number Sense

Dear family,

We recently completed our Fall Number Sense interview with your child. The interview is an opportunity for us to sit with each child as they count, read numbers, and solve addition and subtraction problems. During each interview, we listen carefully to learn more about how the child makes sense of mathematics. This helps us consider how we can best support all children's learning.

The skills and concepts below are key elements of what we call "number sense." Number sense refers to a person's understanding of and intuition regarding the meaning of—and relationships among—numbers. Number sense is critical for students' long-term success in mathematics. People with a strong number sense can make reasonable estimates, solve problems in different ways, and use relationships among numbers to work with both creativity and precision. We look forward to working together with you this year to support your child's growth in mathematics.

During the assessment your student demonstrated the ability to:

- Count forward from 995 to 1,000
- Count backward from 602 to 597
- Read numbers to one thousand and basic fractions

Your student could benefit from additional support with:

- Recognizing how many tens are in numbers to 100. For example, there are 6 groups of ten in the number 64.
- Mentally adding 10 to any 3-digit number. For example, 796 + 10
- Using mental math to subtract near-multiples of 100 from multiples of 100, e.g., 500 – 397 or 500 – 302
- Understanding fractions on number lines (like rulers or other measurement tools). For example, this string is 3 inches long, and I want to cut ¼ inch off. Where should I cut?

Some ideas for helping your child at home:

- Make a habit of supporting your child in reading whole numbers and fractions in the world around you. For example, "Look at the number of milliliters in this carton of milk. What is this number? … Nine hundred forty-six, that's right!" Make a habit of supporting your child in reading whole numbers and fractions in the world around you. Or, "Look at

the fraction on the road sign. Can you read that fraction? … That's right! It says three-fours of a mile until our exit. That's a little less than a mile to go!"

- Invite your child to see how many tens are in numbers up to 100. "We have 22 stickers, if we put ten on each page, how many pages will get 10 stickers?
- Make a game of choosing a number like 697 or 392 and asking the other person to add 10 to that number. Take turns with your child so that you both have the chance to choose the number and to add 10.
- Invite your child to notice and compare fractions in other contexts. Sticks of butter, glass storage jars, and buckets for mixing paint are just some of many places you might notice fractions marked in a way that is like a number line.
- Invite your child to notice and compare fractions on measuring devices. For example, invite your child to find ⅓, ¼, and ½ of a cup on a 1-, 2-, or 4-cup liquid measuring cup. Ask them to compare the fractions and find others as well (⅔ and ¾ are also marked on such cups).

Here are some websites with excellent ideas for parents to support children:

- Math at Home from The Math Learning Center free resources for math learning at home
- Math Anywhere: https://www.mathanywhere.org/ ideas for younger children and their parents.
- Mixing in Math from TERC free resources for math learning at home
- Bedtime Math mathematical stories and conversation starters for caregivers and children
- Making Math a Family Thing from the Harvard Graduate School of Education brief article about how to incorporate math into family life

Supporting your child in making sense of numbers, and seeing numbers in the world around them, will help them to develop their math skills and understanding, helping them to become more confident, and capable in mathematics. Every child has the ability to learn mathematics, and when students hear and see mathematics in their everyday lives it helps them to learn.

Thank you for supporting your child.