

**MR. UEERROTH's Math HELPER**  
**MAKING SENSE OUT OF YOUR CHILD'S MATH**

Your child will receive a final grade report prior to conferences.

The final grade will give you some very important information. You should look for grades in all three of the following areas.

**Tests/Quizzes** = An average of the test and quiz grades will appear. This will help identify if your child has difficulty when it comes to tests. Sometimes students get a little nervous and do not perform as well.

**Homework** = An average grade for daily work. This is a combination of points and the C.O.S.T. method of evaluating students' work.

**COST** = **The problem solving process gets its own special section. These are the problems your child brings home on a small slip of paper. The evaluation process is described below. The lowest possible grade for a COST problem is a C+ as long as the problem is attempted.**

**The reward is on the process and not just on the correct answer. If your child is continually working on the problems he/she will get better and you will see more COST being achieved.**

**C.O.S.T. Described:**

The COST method lets your child know what he or she needs to work on when completing assignments and learning tasks.

C = When we are working on a specific word problem to develop problem solving skills the "C" can only be achieved with a correct answer. In daily homework, I am not concerned about how many problems a child answers correctly, so the "C" simply means the paper was labeled and directions were followed. I am more interested in the "OST" on daily work.

O = Organized work. All assignments and word problems should be organized so that anyone looking at them will know what goes with what. The use of pictures, drawings, and word explanations should be organized and presented in a clear manner.

S = Support! This is the most important. This means that your child is supporting the problem solving process. This includes showing the work in reaching an answer. Support for a word problem must match the answer achieved. The "S" can be obtained even if an incorrect answer is given as long as there is sufficient support that matches his or her answer. The reward is on the process.

T = Tolerable and technically appropriate writing. If the work is not readable and I have a difficult time sifting through it, I will give the assignment or problem back and the opportunity to redo it is given. Every student is expected to write in a manner that anyone picking up his or her paper would be able to read it. Also, the work must be technically appropriate. For example, a faulty process may have accidentally resulted in a correct answer...or on occasion an answer is borrowed from someone else. ☺

Look for the word "COST" written across assignments, quizzes, and word problems. If only some of the letters are evident students will have an opportunity to redo problems to achieve all letters.

Thanks,  
Mr. Michael D. Ueberroth