

## Second Grade Mad Minutes

Dear Parents,

I am trying a new strategy with Mad Minute practice this year. In the past, the students took a Mad Minute at school about three times a week. But as you know, memorization needs to be very consistent to make math facts become automatic. Because this is so important in second grade, this year I will be sending Mad Minutes home as daily homework. I would like you to be directly involved in the process so you can help your child when he/she is having difficulty with some of the facts. I will record your child's Mad Minute homework score at school, and send home the same type of Mad Minute the next day for mastery. More challenging Mad Minutes will go home as your child progresses. Mad Minutes will be sent home Monday thru Thursday.

Attached are instructions for giving the Mad Minute and I thank you in advance for helping me help your child. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Thanks again and God Bless You! 😊

Sally Cripps

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## MAD MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS

The name Mad Minute implies giving one minute for the timed test. However, I will be giving our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders 1 ½ minutes instead because one minute can be a little overwhelming! The students can also pass with 26 correct out of 30, which allows for a little slower recall and the occasional “oops” problem. This requirement still means that they are writing an answer in at least 3 ½ seconds. I am looking for proficiency no perfection at this point. If your child is faster, yippee! 😊

After making sure there will be no noises or distractions for 90 seconds, get ready to time your child. Please make sure your child puts his/her name on the paper!

Step 1: Say, “Ready, Set, Go!”

Step 2: When the time is up (1 ½ min.) say, “Please stop.” Please have your child draw a vertical line to show how far he/she got. (See the example, attached. If your child is done before the time is up, write the time he/she finished at the top of the page.)

Step 3: Have your child complete the additional problems for extra practice, but do not time him/her.

Step 4: Check over the problems, circle the incorrect ones, cross out the wrong answer and have your child write the correct answer. Do not erase. Make a note to do additional practice of those problems or other ones they struggled to answer.

Step 5: Return the homework in the folder for me to record.

Step 6: The same Mad Minute will come home the next day as homework until it is passed. Then your child will move on to another Mad Minute.

Step 7: After passing basic addition, basic subtraction will be sent home so students can memorize and apply “fact family” knowledge. Then we will move into harder addition and subtraction problems and then we will concentrate on mixed addition and subtraction problems. Finally, if there is time, multiplication will begin to come home!

TOOLS: You will need a “second” hand watch, clock or timer. Check your tool box on your cell phone for a stop watch. I think most have one. Guessing the time as the numbers on a digital clock change is not an accurate way of timing! 😊

**Please encourage your child not to use fingers. Have your child count up in his/her brain, tap it out with your free hand or do Touch Points until you memorize it. Make sure you start with the biggest number and count up or down. Have fun and good luck!**