

POW

Problem of the Week

Dear Parents and Students,

A problem is a question or situation that cannot be solved or answered immediately. Problems are often open-ended, paradoxical, and sometimes unsolvable, and require investigation before one can come close to a solution. Problems and problem solving are at the heart of mathematics and science. In order to become problems solvers, (and not problems)

I give all my students a POW at the beginning of each week. These are due either at the end of our school week, or if they are particularly challenging, they are due the following Monday. These are an important part of the grade. They must be done and turned in on time. I give the appropriate help and directions so these will not be impossible. I also pick the correct level of difficulty for the class. I want them to develop patience and persistence in problem solving. You may give hints and encouragement, but you are not to do the work! I want your student to learn to put their hands in the math and play with it!!

Please help me in this so there will be no nasty surprises at the grading period due to missing POWs. Make sure that they spend a little time every day working on the puzzles; these cannot be started Thursday night or Friday morning before school!

Thank you,

Ms. Cathy DaCosta