

News from KUMON of University Village

**KUMON of
University Village**

Center Hours

Monday
Thursday

2:30-7:00 pm

Center Closed

Monday, 8/29-
Monday, 9/5
*Open for the 2011-2012
school year on Thursday,
September 8!*

August 2011

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The Gift of Mastery-Learning to Love Learning Again

Humans have an innate desire to learn. Young children exhibit a natural curiosity and love for learning. Unfortunately, by the time many children are teenagers this love for learning has been lost. It may be due to negativity from parents, pressure from teachers or teasing from other kids. But this love can be recaptured.

For older kids, the first step is to regain self-confidence and self-esteem. In Kumon, this is accomplished by starting at the **comfortable starting point**, where they can experience immediate success. As the parent it is crucial that you NEVER say things like, "This work is too easy", or, "You should know this. You learned this years ago." This is a sure way to undermine your child's self-confidence.

As your child begins to advance in Kumon, please never comment about the number of mistakes being made. Instead, encourage your child's learning by recognizing and acknowledging their improvements, no matter how small. **Mistakes are a natural part of learning**, and are valuable tools in determining where to focus study.

We sometimes hear parents say things such as, "He's in 5th grade. He *needs* to be in multiplication (or fractions, or algebra.....)" when the student is still working their way through the critical addition and subtraction levels 3A, 2A & A in math. Please remember that our goal here at Kumon is the same is yours-to help your child move ahead as quickly as possible through the curriculum, so that schoolwork is easier and faster. In Kumon, your child is always moving ahead from a point of strength and mastery. They are never at a deficit and will never have gaps in their foundation. It is in these beginning "easy" levels that students are building the brain power, focus and study skills that they will need in order to succeed in more advanced levels.

Kumon students *earn* their way to these higher, advanced levels. They earn this advanced status through **commitment to daily study, mastery of the basics and development of self-learning skills**. Once a student has invested the time and effort to establish the firm foundation that the beginning levels of Kumon provide, they will have the "**power tools**" needed to handle the more rigorous and challenging work that they will encounter in middle school, high school and in college.

A parent recently questioned why his child had to repeat certain sections in a level. Although his child could answer the problems

correctly and quickly, she was using her fingers to count. She still did not have the mental calculation skills that Kumon allows every student to develop.

Another parent was concerned that his daughter was in 4th grade, had been enrolled in the math program for a year, and was still "only" in Level B, finishing the borrowing section of subtraction. I sat down with this dad, and yes, his daughter was not yet at multiplication. But when we looked at the worksheets, we saw that his daughter was able to do triple-digit subtraction mentally and quickly, without having to do all of the crossing out that students with weak math skills need to do. Plus, she was doing so much better in school and no longer cried each night while doing math homework. Needless to say, he was impressed and felt reassured.

Please do not underestimate the power of building a strong foundation in math and reading. Please allow your child the gift of the time that they need to truly master the work at hand. **The gift of mastery** is a gift that will last their entire lives and serve them well.

And please remember-my staff and I have the same goals that you have for your child-to help them make fast and smooth progress in their Kumon, so that sooner rather than later it is transferring over into improved self-confidence, high achievement in school, development of self-learning skills and a bright future filled with possibility.

Please read below for a first-hand example of the benefits of Kumon study....

KUMON Power Tools

"Dear Jeannie,

A small note to tell you about a small Kumon miracle we experienced today at our house. Maddie was doing math homework this evening, focused on Fibonacci numbers and fractals. Setting up the problems took some time, but she clearly had such a solid grasp of her fundamentals and worked with a confidence I don't remember seeing before. She was multiplying 3 digit by 2 digit numbers in her head,

and manipulating fractions with no hesitation. I remember not too long ago, when math homework each night felt as if someone had asked her to build a house. She didn't even know how to approach the tasks at hand, and felt overwhelmed. Kumon has given her constant practice with the math power tools she needs. I watch her reach for the right tool to accomplish the task at hand like an old pro. Step-by-step, the progress is sometimes slow, but it's steady and very visible. Thanks to you and your staff for all you do!

Leslie M."

Reading Challenge Wraps Up on Aug. 21.

By now students should be well towards reaching their reading goal. If you are finding that the ambitious goal your child set at the beginning of the summer seems unrealistic, please help them to adjust the goal to something more achievable. You can simply write the revised goal at the top of the Book Tracker.

Please remember make sure that your child is recording all of the books that they are reading in their Book Trackers. Each entry needs to be filled out relatively completely in order to count towards the goal.

It's been fun to see all of the yellow KUMON T-shirts around UVillage!

Thank You to My Amazing Staff

It's been a busy summer opening our second Kumon center in Interbay. We have worked hard to make the transition for our families who are transferring there as seamless as possible.

It's also been a very busy summer for me personally preparing my youngest sons, Peter and Tom, for college. Robyn, Greta, Jen and Alli, along with our center assistants, have made it possible for me to have the time with my boys, and to do what I needed to do to expand, all the while caring for and making sure our students and families receive the high-quality service and Kumon you expect. I am such a lucky Kumon Instructor to work with these amazing women. Thanks so much! xo