

## School Prep List

### SELECTING QUESTIONS

- ☐ I will send you a link to the Question Banks.
  - The total number needs to be a multiple of 4. I suggest 28 or 32 questions from the link Mr. Gandy will send you.
  - You may choose more, but please consider how much time students will have to work. We don't want them to run out, but we don't want to have a ton left over either.
  - (Early in the year, you may find you want to pick questions from your current grade level and the year before.) Example: Current year - 3rd grade: Pick from 2nd and 3rd grade Question Banks
- ☐ Assign each class a team color. Options: Yellow, Orange, Green, Blue, Purple, Red
- ☐ Divide each class into 6 groups. Assign each a group number. (Note: For smaller classes, you can use fewer groups. Please let me know in advance.)
- ☐ Be sure students know their team color and group number before arriving.
  - Options: Yellow, Orange, Green, Blue, Purple, Red
  - When classes arrive for the event, I will have pirate posters laid out separating groups from other groups in their class. These will have class colors and group numbers on them.
- ☐ Students bring pencils and blank, scratch paper to the event. (Answers are written on the question sheet.)
- ☐ Composition books, calculators, etc. are not permitted.
- ☐ Determine which type of facts are used at the Fast Facts Challenge Station. Multiplication, Division, Addition, Subtraction, Factors, etc.
- ☐ You will need Answer Checkers. The number of checkers depends on the number of classes.
  - Generally, you will need about one checker for every 8 student groups. Example: 4 classes = 24 groups = 3 Answer Checkers. [ $24 \div 8 = 3$ ]
  - These may be parent volunteers, teachers, or other staff. (If not your grade level teachers, they should arrive early enough to receive instructions.)

### TIME FRAME TO CONSIDER

- ☐ Figure on 10 to 15 minutes for students to get seated, settled, and receive instructions, an hour to work, and about 10 minutes to calculate the score and announce the winners. Any more time than that is icing on the cake.
- ☐ It is helpful if you can get parent volunteers to be answer checkers.
  - If they show up about 15 minutes before the students arrive it helps. I have to give them instructions.
  - Three or four volunteers should be enough if you can get them, but a few more doesn't hurt.

- Volunteers can even help calculate scores at the end (freeing up some teachers to monitor the students. It doesn't hurt to have teachers free to monitor behavior and keep them moving in the right direction.
- Yes, I understand the difficulty of getting volunteers, so you do you.

**RUNNING THE EVENT OPTIONS:** Which you choose really depends on your goals.

- It's simple, really. It IS a competition. You can figure it out from there. You WILL have butterflies during the event.

### CONSIDER YOUR GOALS

- 1) Do you want to use it to motivate students to work hard (during the event and in class in preparation for the next event)?
  - 2) Do you want it to all about fun?
  - 3) Do you want to make it about turning it into more of a teaching moment (Definitely Option #1)?
- **Option #1) Teachers can help.** (Your team decides how much help and what kind). If you choose this, I'd suggest prompting help only. You decide what works best for you. (Note: Non-educators do not help.)
  - **Option # 2) Teachers do not help.** Under both options, students are told which part of a question they missed (if there is more than 1 part). Example: 3 addition questions. Don't worry about the scoring system.
  - I'll explain the scoring system the day of the event - based on the option you choose. It's actually simple.
- ☐ You can see the dice spinner I will operate at [piratemath.org](http://piratemath.org) under "Challenge Station Basic Facts Challenge (New Activity)"
    - I have regular 6-sided dice and 6-sided dice with numerals. I have also have 12-sided dice, 20-sided dice, and 30-sided dice.
    - You may choose to use flash cards instead of the spinner, but I've found the spinner to be more fun. (Note: If a "1" is rolled, I roll again.)
    - The morning of the event, I will be outside by the office early and wait to be let in.
    - Please let people know I am coming. People tend to freak out when they see a man they don't know dressed in black waiting outside of the school early in the morning - even a little old guy like me. :)