

Rocket Math Wall Chart



Set up a group reward, such as a class popcorn party, extra recess, music-while working time, certificates from principal, or other short reward. This reward will be given when the group meets a goal of filling the chart up to a specific line by an established date.

Set the goal date no more than four weeks (and four lines) away. You don't want to wait too long to reach your goal—they'll lose interest. Figure on average you should get at least one level passed per student per week. (If you don't know what we mean by this, please go back to the Rocket Math General Directions and read about passing daily timings.) This is VERY conservative—which is good, making success very likely. Each row is 25 squares so if you have 25 students you would set the goal at exactly four rows completed. Put an arrow next to the last square of the fourth row. "If we reach this square by October 15th, we will have our party (or whatever group reward you have planned)." If you have fewer students adjust your goal accordingly. Please really think about this. It is more important than you think. We have thought about it and if we could, we would mind meld, but we are still working on THAT.

The reward happens as soon as the goal is met. There is nothing more motivating to students than to beat your expectations. If they beat the conservative goal, you must still act amazed and impressed. Make a big deal out of it. Tell the principal, tell everyone. Have the reward ASAP and set a new goal.

Daily Procedure:

- 1. Students who pass, get to put a star sticker on the chart.** After each day's math facts timing, the teacher circulates up and down rows looking at student fact tests. Students who have passed their set that day are given a star sticker. Students are to quietly take the sticker to the chart on the wall and put it on the "next" square. The squares on the chart are filled left to right and bottom to top. Students simply put their sticker on the chart and circulate back to their seat.
- 2. Teacher expresses admiration at the accomplishments of the group.** At the end of giving out stickers, the teacher should be encouraging about all the students who have passed their set. "Wow, a whole bunch of people passed today! Look at how this chart is filling up! You guys are really working hard. I can't believe it! I think that our goal is really, really hard, but if you can keep this up, we might actually make it. You are the kinds of kids who go to college!"

Enthusiasm required:

The key to this working is your enthusiasm. It is not about the party. It is about you being impressed with the progress students are making. Put your focus on how smart the group is getting, how they are working so hard, how well they are doing, etc. Don't emphasize the differences between the students who are passing frequently and those who are not—believe me they are feeling it without a word from you, as they know how often they get to get up and contribute to the chart. Because everyone is getting up and moving on different days it would be hard for others to keep track of a neighbor. Keep the focus on the group and being positive and they will all do their best to pass. **Remember: If you think it is important, so will your students and unfortunately... vice versa!**

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