



## SALLY RIDE'S BASIC FACTS PROGRAM WILL START SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>!

Dear Sally Ride Parents/Guardians:

Beginning Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, Sally Ride students in first through fifth grade will be given math facts drills appropriately created for their grade level. (Kindergarten students will begin basic facts testing on November 8, 2010.) These drills are not part of the student's math grade but are designed to support Sally Ride's goal of helping all students improve in mathematics.

Educational researchers and cognitive scientists agree that the ability to recall basic math facts fluently is necessary for students to attain higher-order math skills. Practice sessions should be **short** (2 to 5 minutes, not 20) and **frequent** (twice a day rather than twice a week). **We believe your partnership with us in helping your child master their math facts is vital.** A list of web sites for basic facts practice is posted on Sally Ride's home page under "Important Information." The school's website is <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ridees/>.

**In order to help you better prepare your child for these drills a copy of the revised 2010-2011 Sally Ride Basic Facts Pyramid is attached.** Note: We have changed the testing time of the second grade tests to 3 minutes 30 seconds. New to SKR students will start at the beginning level for their grade. Students enrolled in SKR last year will start at the level they ended on last year. When students successfully complete the objectives for a level, they move to the next level within their grade. When students complete all the levels for a grade, they will be given an award and a sample drill for the next grade.

Thank you in advance for your help and participation in this important program. We look forward to all of our Sally Ride students benefiting from this program and improving their math skills.

Sincerely,

Mr. Christopher Wynne  
Principal