

A Love of Math

It is a rainy Spring morning, and the 25 members of the Math Club at the Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10 are eager to start playing the game "24." The game challenges students to quickly state the way four numbers on a card add up to 24.

"I like playing the game '24,' said Yaa, a 4th grader at the school. "In 24, you get to be competitive – you have to really think."

And another student, Dwayne noted: "I used to hate playing the 24 game. Now I love it. It helps me think fast."



The math game is one of several activities they regularly undertake as part of the club, which depends this spring on special bus transportation provided through the Dr. Walter Cooper Fund of REF. The club could not attract enough students when it tried to operate before the school day without the bussing,

because students could not get to school on time for the club. The bus takes care of the problem.

"I have math geeks all over the building," says their teacher, Denise Schultz, who is the school's math coordinator. In addition to playing the game "24," students are given math problems to solve and math puzzles.

A highlight earlier in the year was an appearance by internationally-renowned mathematician Dr. Jonathan Farley, who worked on math puzzles with the students and remains in touch with the class. On this Spring morning, the students are eager to find out where in the world Dr. Farley is traveling (somewhere in Europe). He often sends them puzzles.

The Club is a big success for participating students, who must be in grades 3, 4 and 5. With 25 students participating out of the total number of 120 students in grades 3, 4 and 5, Math Club has a large fraction of the school's students. Do the math.

