

Sumdog Competition

For those of you who don't already know, Sumdog is an online math program aimed at helping students learn and practice numeracy skills in grades 1 – 8. Sumdog adapts its questions to each student's ability and teachers can even restrict the range of questions by setting default skills. Starting at the end of this week our school will begin participating in a city-wide Sumdog Competition.

The competition runs from Friday, October 19 at 8:00 am until Thursday, October 25 at 8:00 pm. Students compete by playing Sumdog's games. All students in the school have been entered into the contest and to compete, students will simply play Sumdog games, which are free to play, before, during and after the contest. Students are ranked on the number of correct answers and on their average answer speed if there is a tie. To make contests fair for students with limited access to computers, every student is limited to 1000 questions. However, it's fun to take part even if students only answer a few questions.

The site was very popular with the students last year, and I hope that we can keep that momentum going. Your child's classroom teacher has access to their login information as do I. If for some reason your child does not have access to the site please email me at nathan.wieand@dc.gov and I will pass along their login information. The winners of the competition will be awarded prizes, which could include free licenses for the school and will at the very least unlock access to a special version of the *Junk Pile* game. For your information, Sumdog will not work on iOS devices as it requires Adobe Flash. Students can access the site from any computer with internet access at www.sumdog.com Thank you in advance for your participation in the competition!

The Lafayette Computer Lab

This year, I am proud to announce that we have introduced a computer lab at Lafayette. The Lafayette Computer Lab is a designated computer space that holds enough computers to accommodate even the largest class at the school. The lab is equipped with 29 Apple computers, a Smart Board, and 2 color printers and is located on Team 3. The primary purpose of the lab is to give teachers an area where they can work with their students on educational projects that integrate technology. The lab will also be used for completing our online STARS Reading, Math, and Early Literacy Assessments, as well as various online educational programs such as Sumdog, ST Math, and First in Math.

When planning and implementing projects for students, teachers will consider the *International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) National Educational Technology Standards (NETS)*, which can be found at: www.iste.org/standards These standards are a framework for schools used to provide the most beneficial and productive uses for technology integration including digital citizenship, technological skills, and terminology among other things. Please feel free to look at the standards to get a sense of how we will be preparing our students for lives in the digital age.

The students and staff are very enthused to have the computer lab available to them and I will do my best to ensure that it stays up-to-date and in good working condition. I am looking forward to this school year and having the opportunity to work with students and teachers on technology integrated projects. A big special thank you goes out to all of the members of the staff and HSA who helped us to get the Lafayette Computer Lab up and running. Thank you!