

## LEARNING TO LOVE LEARNING THROUGH KUMON



St. Valentine's Day is named for a third century Christian martyr. Nowadays, on February 14, people exchange valentines with their sweethearts. These valentines are tokens of their affection for one another. The valentine has come to symbolize love and commitment. Children, too, enjoy exchanging valentines with their friends on St. Valentine's Day. There are many different kinds of love and even more

ways to express it. The best kind of love, though, is the kind through which both the giver and recipient can grow. Naturally, parents love their children; however, the expression of this parental devotion is the everyday giving of unconditional love. One of the greatest manifestations of parental love which parents can give their children every day is the wonderful gift of Kumon.

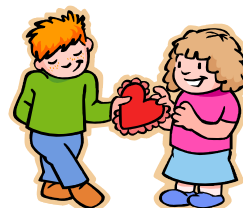
Kumon is like love; you have to work at it. There are good days when it is easy and everything goes smoothly, and unfortunately, there are also days when the thrill seems to be gone. Nevertheless, children can learn to love learning through the Kumon Method. Parents can help to keep the Kumon affair passionate by providing praise and encouragement and by demonstrating sincere interest in the child's daily progress. In the beginning stage of Kumon study, it is usually easy to inspire new students' infatuation. Gradually, as the novelty wears off and the "honeymoon is over," children need parental guidance, support and discipline to remain devoted to the method. Parents should take to heart the importance of faithfulness in Kumon; the only way to realize all the benefits is through a long-term commitment.

Kumon is the best Valentine's Day present that parents can give their children. It will not melt or cause cavities like chocolate, and it will not wilt like a rose. In fact, Kumon is the Valentine that can be given 365 days a year. So why not tell someone you love about Kumon and all about your child's progress!

### February 2007

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY  
FROM KUMON!



# Niles Open House!!

## Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

### from 12:30 pm to 3 pm



Share your Kumon experience with a friend!

Bring a friend to the Niles Open House and you will be entered into our hourly open house raffles. If any person you bring enrolls, you will receive one free month's tuition!

Please note that the Park Ridge Center will be closed on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> due to the Niles Open House



## Why Does the Kumon Mathematics Curriculum Emphasize Calculation Skills?

*"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored..." - Aldous Huxley*

Students need to have a command of elementary operations before they move on to more advanced problem solving exercises. In the Kumon Method, our initial emphasis is on mastery of computational skills. The curriculum has minimized peripheral, non-essential elements from its program. Calculation skills are presented in a step-by-step fashion which maximizes mastery and fact retention. Unlike math textbooks, the method is organized in a sequential order. Students advance in small increments, studying each concept until it is mastered. The curriculum is a streamlined system with the specific objective of providing the most direct route to high school mathematics. An emphasis on calculation from the early levels onward carries a student toward this goal.

We believe that children can most effectively learn the skills they need by applying themselves to practical tasks. Concepts and theories can come later after the child has achieved a complete grasp of the mechanics. Our mathematical experience has taught us that concept learning should follow skill learning. Students will develop mathematical thinking skills as a consequence of gaining total proficiency in computation.

Regular practice motivates students by providing a sense of steady progress. As students acquire math facts, they augment their overall understanding of mathematical functions. The skills that students acquire are fundamental building blocks not only of mathematics—but also of learning itself. Kumon's sequential method helps to foster independent study skills. Students experience the "joy of learning" most dramatically when they are able to figure things out on their own. The materials contain valuable example problems that readily enable students to accomplish this. Indisputably, students need to acquire critical thinking skills for academic success; equally as important, students need to be able to calculate. The method produces students with both of these abilities. Kumon's emphasis on calculation skills has proven to be the best technique for long-term success in learning math.