



A GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS

A school-wide culture of math *fluency*.

A free program for daily classroom practice and live Bee events, built on speech recognition. Free for every student, in every school, at any grade.



01

Practice every day

A few minutes of speech-recognition practice, tracked automatically.

02

Host a Bee when ready

One classroom or the whole school. One adult can run it.

03

Free forever

No purchase order, no fee, nothing to wait on.



GETTING STARTED

Why build a fluency culture?

A school builds real culture around a skill when practice is part of daily life, not just a once-a-year test. Multiplication Bee brings that same idea to math facts.

01

Number sense that lasts

Fluency carries into algebra and everything after it.

02

Confidence, not anxiety

Students who know their facts stop dreading the math.

03

Goal-setting habits

Daily practice teaches students how to work at something.

04

Classroom and school culture

Something the whole building can share in.

05

Every student reached

Free, whatever a school can afford.

FLUENCY AS A FOUNDATION, NOT A GATE

It starts small and grows when you're *ready*.

A few minutes of daily practice can grow into a school-wide event whenever a school is ready. There is no required starting point and no wrong way to begin.

“*Fluency clears the bottleneck so a student's working memory goes toward the math, not the arithmetic.*”

THE IDEA BEHIND MULTIPLICATION BEE



OUR PHILOSOPHY

The idea behind it

Rigorous foundational math fluency is essential preparation for everything that comes after it. A student who has to stop and calculate 7×8 in the middle of a multi-step problem is spending working memory on arithmetic instead of on the actual math. Fluency clears that bottleneck.

Multiplication Bee is built on **speech recognition**, not flashcards or timed worksheets alone. Students say their answers out loud, the way they'll eventually need to talk through math with a teacher, a classmate, or themselves. It's free for every student, on any device a classroom already has.

Every student practices at exactly their level, automatically. Arrays and skip counting for one student, the full 12×12 table for another, in the same class session. That's **instant differentiation**, and it's the same idea behind how a Bee scales: whether it's five students in a classroom or an entire school on stage, the format meets the school where it is, the same way the app meets each student where they are.

GROUNDING IN

30+ years in software, time as a math teacher and band director, and a hard-won belief that fluency, in music and in math, is built through daily reps, not once-a-year pressure.

“Fluency isn't a test to pass once. It's a habit a school builds, the same way a band builds tone, a little every day.”

BUILT ON DAILY REPS



THE A TO Z

Getting started

01 Create a free account

Sign up your classroom or school at whattimeswhat.com. No purchase order, no fee, nothing to wait on.

02 Practice a few minutes a day

Students build fluency through short, speech-recognition practice sessions. Progress is tracked automatically in the Gradebook.

03 Host a Bee whenever you're ready

Run a classroom or school-wide event with the built-in event tools: player stations, a projected board, and automatic scoring.

04 Celebrate every student's progress

Fluency is the win, not just first place. Recognize participation and growth, not only the champion.

START TODAY

The best day to start is *today*.

Not next September, not after testing season. Start a classroom this week and the program works exactly the same.

“*There is no required starting point and no wrong way to begin.*”

HOWEVER YOUR SCHOOL WANTS TO START



PICK WHAT FITS

Choose your format

There's more than one way to bring Multiplication Bee to a school. Pick what fits your students, your schedule, and your space. You can always grow into a bigger format later.

Practice Only

No event at all. Just daily fluency practice in the classroom, tracked in the Gradebook over time. A great way to start before committing to a live event.

01

A Bee Coordinator

One person to plan it and run the event.

Classroom Bee

One teacher, one classroom, one afternoon. The fastest way to try a live event and see how students respond to the format.

02

A device

Laptop or Chromebook. The built-in microphone works great, and a projector helps if you have one.

School-Wide Bee

Classroom champions advance to a school-wide event with divisions by grade or age, whichever makes sense for you, a projected board, and a full program.

03

A little space

A classroom, cafeteria, or gym. Whatever fits your format.

“Start with Practice Only. Move to a Classroom Bee when you're curious. Grow to School-Wide when you're ready.”

NO WRONG WAY TO BEGIN



WHO'S INVOLVED

Meet the Bee Coordinator



The Bee Coordinator

Plans the event and runs the device. That's the whole role.

Academic competitions traditionally need a small crew: someone to present the questions, someone to judge the answers, someone to keep score. Multiplication Bee is built so that one person can do all three at once.

A traditional format needs

- An organizer to plan logistics
- A reader to present each problem
- A judge to rule on each answer
- A record keeper to track scores

Multiplication Bee needs

- A Bee Coordinator to plan it
- A device to run it

WHY IT MATTERS

One person can run the *whole* event.

Speech-recognition scoring and the projected board handle presenting, judging, and record-keeping automatically, so a single teacher or counselor can run a real event without recruiting and training a volunteer panel. Worth testing ahead of time: projecting the leaderboard and connecting the player station is the one part that takes some A/V attention. Once that's working, the rest runs itself.



ALREADY BUILT

Tools already built in

Everything below is already live and free. There's nothing extra to buy and nothing extra to install.

**WhatTimesWhat**

The free, speech-recognition practice app with instant differentiation built in. One class, every level.

**Gradebook**

One-click Class and Student progress reports, aligned to Common Core (3.OA.C.7) and TEKS 3.4F. Ready for conferences and RTI.

**My Progress**

A student-facing view where kids see their own growth over time. Motivation to keep going, not just a report for the teacher.

**Level Up**

A mastery system that shows exactly which facts a student has locked in.

**The Hive**

A public challenge board where students can test their fluency against friends.

**Event Time Planner**

Estimates how long a Bee will run, so it fits the time you actually have.

**Paper Level Up Tracker**

A free printable so students can track their own progress on paper, the same thing Level Up tracks automatically in the app.

ONE LOGIN, EVERYTHING

All of these tools live in the same free account. There's nothing separate to sign up for and nothing extra to configure.



YEAR-ROUND HABITS

Building fluency every day

These are the simple, low-cost routines that build fluency in the ordinary days between events.

01 A five-minute daily warm-up

Start class with a quick round of practice before the day's lesson begins.

02 Let mastery guide practice

Level Up shows each student exactly which facts they've locked in, so their own practice targets what's next. Gradebook gives you that same picture across the whole class.

03 Fill the dead time

Line-up time, dismissal waiting, transitions between subjects. Small pockets of the day add up.

04 Celebrate Level Up milestones

Recognize students the moment they master a table. The free paper Level Up tracker at classicmathgames.com gives them something to hold onto.

05 Send practice home

Challenge parents to try the facts themselves, then challenge their kids to beat them. Pencil and paper is all it takes, no device required.

“The Bee is the celebration. Fluency is built in the ordinary days between events.”

YEAR-ROUND, NOT ONCE A YEAR



MAKE IT STICK

Culture-building ideas

None of these require a budget. They just require someone willing to make fluency feel like an occasion.

Spirit Day

Pick a day for students to wear their favorite number or a times-table-themed shirt. Small, visible, and free.

Recognition Wall

A bulletin board where every student who levels up a table gets their name added. Growth on display, not just winners.

Math Night

Piggyback on Math Night, STEM Night, or Open House if your school already has one, with a printed certificate for every student who shows up to practice.

Personal Touches

A certificate, a sticker, a shout-out in the morning announcements. The small gestures are what students remember.

“Recognize growth, not just winners. That's what makes a fluency culture stick.”

EVERY STUDENT HAS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE



IN TRIBUTE

Doug & Sue Barber

Quitman, Texas



Doug Barber



Sue Barber

In sixth grade, Sue Barber came down from the junior high to introduce a classroom of students to UIL Number Sense, a competitive mental math format where speed and accuracy are practiced until they become automatic. She coached weekly at the elementary level, then more closely once those students reached junior high, where she taught.

Her husband, Doug Barber, taught algebra at the high school and ran Number Sense practice an hour before school, every single day. Neither of them received a stipend for it. What they built instead was a pipeline: students introduced to the culture in sixth grade, developed through junior high, and competing at the highest level by the time they reached him. It produced state champions. More than that, it produced generations of students who grew up mathematically fluent.

That daily, unglamorous, unpaid discipline is the whole philosophy behind Multiplication Bee: culture beats a single event, and showing up every day is what actually changes what a student can do.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chris Roberts spent 30+ years in software before returning to the classroom as a math teacher and band director. Along the way he noticed that fluency in music and fluency in math are built the same way, through daily repetition, not once-a-year pressure. That belief became Multiplication Bee, and it's the same argument at the center of his book, **Math Education in the Age of AI: What Music Education Solves That Math Education Forgot**, available at MathInTheAgeOfAI.com.



THE PATH FORWARD

The fluency journey

Here's what exists today, and where the program is headed as more schools take part.

Classroom

Daily practice, Gradebook tracking, and an optional classroom-level Bee.



School Bee

A full school-wide event with divisions, a projected board, and a school champion.



District & Regional

A future stage, once a track record of successful School Bees is in place.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

The Classroom and School Bee stages are real and available today. District and regional stages are a vision for the future, not yet a program a school can join.

WHAT THAT MEANS FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Starting now puts you *first* in line.

Schools building a fluency culture today are the ones whose champions will be ready when the later stages arrive.



MISSION

By building fluency in foundational math facts, Multiplication Bee helps every student build the confidence and number sense they need for a lifetime of learning.

VISION

To give every student the fluency they need to go *further* in math.

Start free at whattimeswhat.com

whattimeswhat.com · multiplicationbee.com · classicmathgames.com

Questions? chris@classical-education.org
A program of the Classical Education Foundation