STRATEGIES for ADDING SUMS

Knowing different strategies makes adding sums (especially mentally) easier and faster! You can also check your answer to a question by adding it up again with a second strategy!

**LEFT TO RIGHT ADDITION Strategy**

**When do I use it?** When your numbers add up to 9 or less

**Great for mental math!** You read the number as you add up the numbers from left to right!

**Example:** 3452

+ 4326

You read from left to right: Seven thousand, seven hundred, seventy-eight!

**MOVE to make a “Friendly” Number (or Transformation) Strategy**

**When do I use it?** When you have a number that is close to a “friendly” number (numbers that end in zeros like 100s or 1000s). **Great for mental math! This strategy is similar to the round and adjust strategy!**

**Example:** 3999 + 3453 = ? This is hard to add in your head, but if we take 1 from 3453 and move it to the

3999 to make 4000 then we get:

4000 + 3452 = 7452 But since we added 1 to make 4000 we know need to adjust (or compensate)

by taking away 1 from our answer!

**ROUND & ADJUST (or Compensation) Strategy**

**When do I use it?** When you have a number that is close to a “friendly” number (numbers that end in zeros like 100s or 1000s). **Great for mental math!**

**Example:** 3999 + 3453 = ? This is hard to add in your head but if we round 3999 up to 4000 then it’s easy!

4000 + 3453 = 7453 But since we added 1 to make 4000 we know need to adjust (or compensate)

by taking away 1 from our answer!

7453 – 1 = 7452

**ALGORITHM (or Right to Left Addition) Strategy**

**When do I use it?** With any kind of addition problem. **Not great for mental math! Better to be written.**

**Example:** 3852 Start on the right, adding each place value (column). If your numbers add up to more than

+ 5419 9, you have to re-group or carry the number to the next place.

9271

**ADDING (Counting) ON**

**When do I use it?** With any kind of addition problem. **Great for mental math!**

**Example**: 3125 + 1526 = ? Start with one number and then add the second number (in expanded form)

by adding each place value one at a time.

3125 + 1000 = 4125

4125 + 500 = 4625

4625 + 20 = 4645

4645 + 6 = 4651

**EXPANDED FORM ADDITION (or Decomposing)**

**When do I use it?** With any kind of addition problem. **Not great for mental math! Better to be written.**

**Example**: 3584 + 3145 = ? Write each number out in expanded form and then add!

3000 + 500 + 80 + 4

+ 3000 + 100 + 40 + 5

6000 + 600 + 120 + 9 = 6729