Mathnasium Learning Center Director Susan LaPointe creates a personalized plan to help each student

M ath is one of those subjects that students either get or the

Math does not have to be intimidating. Once children can unlock the basics, they can excel, and even er

Susan LaPointe owns and operates Mathnasium Learning Center in Winter Garden with her husband, E

“When we were looking for a business opportunity, I came across Mathnasium,” Susan said. “Once I rev

During her eight years teaching middle school-level math, Susan, who is certified to teach math for grad

“This method is exactly how I would like to teach math, so I was really excited,” Susan said.

“In my profession, I heard over and over about how much kids hate math. But it is not that they actually l

“This method is so good about breaking down math and making it make sense.”

The naming of the learning center was meant as a deliberate analogy. Just as people go to a gymnasiur

“We hear the statistics of how math skills in America are dropping from year to year, and my biggest fea

What sets Mathnasium apart from other learning centers is that it specializes in just math and they help

Participants, who range from grades two through 12, can enroll in a three-, six-, or 12-month program. A

A special two-month option is offered during the summer break for students who want to either get a hea

Initially, all students complete a two-part assessment that consists of written and oral portions. The writte

Once new students are evaluated, a personalized plan is created to focus on the areas of their deficienc

Geometric shapes; calculation of distance, perimeter, area and volume; proportional thinking, such as ra

“We really work on teaching the students to work on their own,” Susan said. “We don’t want them to be c

Instructors use a teach-and-move-on technique, where they explain the concept and then let the student

Mathnasium Learning Center uses a punch-card reward system that allows students to accumulate “pun

The student’s progress is monitored, and periodic reports are given to parents. Parents also may reques

It is the LaPointes’ goal to partner with as many schools as possible.

“We are happy to go into the schools and conduct free math nights,” Susan said. “And we will participate

“We also want to work with the schools to offer scholarships to students in need of math help [who] can’t

“The skills and confidence the students receive from mastering math translates into other areas, becaus

“It is so much fun to see these kids become excited about math,” Susan added.

13848 Tilden Road in Winter Garden, will open May 2012. Operating hours are Monday, Tuesday