

启发儿童智慧的奥秘17

Skipping grades to the junior high school group and taking first place

Su Wan Ting's motto:

The smart man borrows from others' experience; the average man struggles and gains experience; the stupid man struggles but forgets the experience.

Yield twice the result with half the effort, and not half the result with twice the effort.

Su Wan Ting's incredible abacus and mental arithmetic skills are known to everyone in Taiwan's abacus and mental arithmetic industry. Seeing her name in the competition is like seeing the biggest enemy competing for the championship. As one can see, Wan Ting's capability is astonishing.

Chang Chi Kan, Dean of Academic Affairs at Tainan Municipal Dong-guang Elementary School says that when Wan Ting was in the third and fourth grades, she skipped grades to enter abacus and mental arithmetic competitions at the fifth and sixth grade level and had plenty of experience in competitions in the north and south parts of Taiwan. Due to frequent wins, appearances in newspapers and recognition during her school's weekly assembly, she became a heroine of Dong-guang Elementary School. "Tainan has many famous schools, but with Wan Ting here, Tainan Municipal Dong-guang Elementary School is internationally renowned!" Dean Chang Chi Kan feels deeply honored.

Friends in the abacus and mental arithmetic industry sometimes can't help "complain" to Wan Ting's guidance teacher Master Tai Chiang Ching. "Your Wan Ting always gets first place. We're all going to be out of jobs soon." Having this outstanding student whom everyone calls "champion," Master Tai behaves modestly on the surface, but is proud and happy deep down. With Lin Tzu Yin earlier, and Su Wan Ting later, the two top students have plated two layers of gold on his "CMA Mental Arithmetic" sign, making it so well-known and filling him with energy while he teaches.

However, to avoid jealousy from those in the same profession and standing in the way of other children's chances of winning, Master Tai occasionally lets Wan Ting enter competitions at "skipped levels." In 1996, when Wan Ting was in the fourth grade, the third Taiwan Cup mental arithmetic contest was held on August 4 at Wan Ting's school--Tainan Municipal Dong-guang Elementary School. Over a thousand contestants were gathered in Fu Cheng to test their levels.

As Wan Ting was doing rather well in mental arithmetic at the time, Master Tai and Mrs. Su, after contemplating, decided to have Wan

Ting skip three grades and enter the junior high competition. There were ninety-two contestants in the junior high group, and among them, three, including Wan Ting were elementary kids who signed up at skipped levels. Test problems included 90 problems in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The first time limit was two minutes, the second and third were one minute each. Ranking was based on number of problems answered correctly.

When the results were announced, Wan Ting did not disappoint; she took first place in the junior high group, bringing honor to her school, who was hosting, by keeping the champion award cup in Dong-guang Elementary School. The whole school, from teachers to students jumped for joy. Master Tai Chiang Ching, head of the Taiwan Cup mental arithmetic contest committee, was especially overwhelmed with joy because his beloved student had made another win, one that those in the same profession would have nothing about which to complain.

In reality, Master Tai Chiang Ching knew in his heart that Wan Ting would win because at the time, she was already the top abacus and mental arithmetic expert nationally and the only one in Taiwan holding the special level thirteen in mental calculation. Talent like this would qualify for championship even if eight or ten grades were skipped, not to mention three.

Watching the competition in the audience, Mr. Su said he was happy that Wan Ting placed first in her own school for her own school and he believes that for the school's teachers and parents, it set a certain standard in addition to bringing honor. "Wan Ting, like other students, isn't any smarter, nor has she a higher IQ, but she is active and diligent and tries to better herself. That, along with her mom taking extra good care of her and cheering for her, is how her achievements were attained." The youngest special level expert

Su Wan Ting's motto:

The successful person looks for methods. The unsuccessful person looks for excuses.

Laziness is the root of all evil.

The highest level in abacus and mental arithmetic is currently "level ten." Once this level has been reached, one is recognized as an expert and qualifies for "graduation."