

2018-2019 Math Guidelines & Expectations

Dear Families,

This school year, your child will be growing and developing their math skills in a variety of ways. Our work in math this year will focus on building our problem solving skills, strengthening our knowledge of math facts (addition/subtraction, multiplication/division), and demonstrating proficiency on math concepts that we're supposed to learn at each grade level.

Each math class will be set up in three primary chunks. The first part is practice of math facts. Secondly, there will be an introduction of a new math concept by the teacher that will be followed by independent practice. Lastly, math classes will focus on the extremely important concept of problem solving, with an emphasis on justifying and explaining.

We'll be using a textbook called Saxon Math as a foundation this school year. These are referred to as "Saxon 4" and "Saxon 5" with the numbers corresponding to the grade levels. Students may also use the Course 1 or Course 2 textbooks, as well as Algebra 1 if they are able to move ahead at their own pace in the advanced math class. Math classes are structured in fluid ways so that students use a math book that corresponds to their math development. For example, a fourth grader might be in Saxon 5 if that's their math level.

In order to better meet the standards of what each fourth and fifth grader are required to learn according to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), each math class will be supplementing other materials to use in their math class. Regularly, teachers will use part of a different curriculum to strengthen instruction on fractions or show videos that demonstrate the difference between hundredths and tenths. Some lessons in Saxon may be skipped if those lessons don't directly address the standards (CCSS) we're required to teach at each grade level.

Assessments will be administered after every lesson ending in "5" and after every Investigation. Assessments will have 20 questions. Students are expected to show proficiency on an assessment by earning at least an 80%. If students earn less than an 80% on the test, they either independently complete their corrections on the test to earn over an 80%, or are retaught the concepts, practice the tricky concepts, and retake the test.

Your Role at Home and School

- ***Your child must complete each day's homework, if it wasn't finished in class. Your role is to make sure they complete their homework.***
- If you have internet access and the appropriate technology, students should practice their Reflex Math facts at home for a minimum of three times per week for 15-20 minutes each time.
- You *may* also choose to have your child access IXL as a supplemental practice and support at home.

In the past, there's been a major emphasis on "finishing that book." While finishing a textbook is a worthwhile milestone, it is not as important as demonstrating proficiency on the math concepts. To us, it's most important that students comprehend the skills they're learning and demonstrate that comprehension on assessments.

Please feel free to contact your child's math teacher with any questions or concerns that arise at any time in the school year.

Sincerely,

Desiree Chiu (dchiu@corbett.k12.or.us)