

Accelerated Math – Frequently Asked Questions

(as answered by Ms. Galazin)

What will my child learn in this class?

The fifth and sixth grade NJ state learning standards for math.

Where can I find these standards?

state.nj.us/education/cccs/2016/math/

Will my child miss anything in homeroom while he is in your class?

No, the homeroom teacher will be teaching math at the same time to the rest of your child's class.

What textbook series will you be using?

Connected Math 3 – the sixth grade program (red books)

Is my child skipping fifth grade math?

No, I teach an infusion of 5th and 6th grade math material throughout the year. We are constantly reviewing previous material, and I will work to fill in any gaps students may have.

How does my child stay in accelerated math?

At the end of the year, your child's final average for math must be 85 or higher to continue in the program. There are no additional entrance exams to continue the program.

How much homework should we expect?

Math homework should take about 20-30 minutes each night.

What if it takes longer than 30 minutes?

If it takes longer than 30 minutes, your child is probably struggling with the concepts. Have the child stop working, write a note that he/she was struggling with the assignment, and I will conference with

that student the following day to see how I can help him/her be successful.

Is there homework on Fridays?

Yes, there could be. It depends on what was learned in class that day. There are also weekly assignments that may carry into the weekend if they haven't been finished yet.

Should we help our kids when they get stuck on a homework problem?

It is your decision as a parent. I don't mind if you help with homework. Encourage your child to read the question at least twice through, even once out loud. Try to get them to talk about the problem, what they know, what they're confused about, etc. Sometimes all it takes is that little nudge for them to figure it out on their own. If they still don't know what to do, you can guide them toward finding the answer. Try asking questions or giving hints at what they need to do. If it's a skill they're struggling with, have them check their classwork for notes or examples before showing them how to do it.

How are students graded?

Classwork = 10% (some assignments are graded for completion, some for accuracy)

Homework = 20% (some assignments are graded for completion, some for accuracy)

Tests/Quizzes/Projects = 70% (within that category, tests are worth the most)

How often will there be tests?

Students can expect an assessment about every two weeks, whether it be a quiz or a test.

Will there be pop quizzes?

No, the students will know about each upcoming assessment.

Do you provide study guides?

Only for the unit tests. The study guides will be a list of topics and vocabulary the students learned throughout the unit.

What kinds of projects do you assign?

Most of the projects are in-class assignments that relate the material to the real world. You will never have to run to the store to buy poster board the night before a project is due!

Is it better to be in accelerated math or TAG?

Each offers a unique experience to your child. Accelerated math will help your child advance to higher level courses in school later on down the road. TAG is an after school activity that students often enjoy. They will learn different things in accelerated math than they do in TAG.

What is the benefit to being in accelerated math?

Students who are successful in our advanced track math program will be two years ahead of an average student by 7th grade. This fast paced curriculum allows your child the opportunity to take AP courses in high school which can earn your child college credits.

What else can we do at home to support our child?

“Math Talk” is the most important thing! Encourage discovery, exploration, curiosity, and problem solving in everyday experiences. Talk with your kids about where they see math in the real world. Work with them to complete tasks like counting coins while paying at a store, finding the best deal on a grocery trip, calculating mileage from road signs, etc. Discuss how math is used in their favorite hobbies, sports, instruments, and in your own job. Your children will be much

more passionate about mathematics and gain a better understanding of numbers from these real world experiences and conversations than they would doing anything else. Mathematics is the study of patterns and all about understanding how processes work. Understanding is so much more important than memorizing because to understand how something works opens up so many more doors in terms of learning and problem solving.