

Do you know there is a new mathematics curriculum?

There has been a *revision* in the Kindergarten to Grade 9 Alberta Mathematics Program of Studies that will be taught in classrooms. Most of what the students are learning is *as familiar* as the math you learned when you were in elementary school. The change in mathematics is not so much in what students are learning but in how students are involved with mathematics as they are learning.

It is likely that when you studied math, you were expected to complete a lot of computations accurately and quickly. The way to get better was to do more and more questions. The focus of this math curriculum has placed a greater emphasis on understanding the mathematical concepts and applying thinking skills to arrive at an answer. The way to get better is to consider various ways to find

answers and be able to explain why the answer is right.

The mathematics classroom may look very different from classrooms when you were a student! Children will be talking about their math and how they try to solve problems. They will be using physical materials to test their thinking and help show how they work through problems. Children will be working with others. Students will be actively learning mathematics!

Thirty years of research into math instruction, has shown us that when the emphasis is on the student's understanding of the math concept, they learn the concept better, they remember it longer and are able to use their knowledge to solve problems more effectively.

How might I support my child in mathematics?

- Let your child know that all students can be successful in mathematics.
- Encourage your child to think of math problems as puzzles or games.
- Don't underestimate your own mathematical capabilities.
- Don't say, "I was never good at math."
- Encourage your child to restate the problem in his or her own words.
- Discuss how you use mathematics in your daily life. For example, cooking, shopping, bus schedules, or math at work.

Alberta Education Implementation Schedule	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Provincial	Grades K, 1, 4, 7	Grades 2, 5, 8	Grades 3, 6, 9, 10
Optional	Grades 2, 5, 8	Grades 3, 6, 9	