



Math Curriculum Night Suggestions

A math curriculum night should help parents to understand:

- what is being taught in each grade and what their children are expected to learn,
- the changes that have taken place in the way teachers teach mathematics, and
- how these changes affect the support parents can give their child in mathematics.

The following suggestions might be helpful for school staff who are organizing a math curriculum night:

1. Form an inclusive organizing committee

A successful math curriculum night should aim to include representatives from all sectors of the school community, including:

- board resource staff
- school administration
- primary and junior teachers
- parents of children in the primary and junior divisions
- local business/community representatives

2. Select a format

Formats for curriculum-focused evenings could include:

- a general overall presentation in the gym
- division or grade presentations in classrooms
- a carousel of teacher-led mathematics activities for parents
- a math walk through the school to highlight the mathematical applications studied by the students

3. Share memories of mathematics

Most parents have memories of themselves as students in a mathematics class. Some parents recall experiences that caused them anxiety over mathematics. Others were successful in mathematics and may have trouble understanding why the program needed to be changed. Whatever the experience, it is important that parents be helped to connect to the present mathematics curriculum and methods of teaching mathematics through their own past experiences as elementary mathematics students.

For example, parents could view a video clip of students learning how to add multi-digit numbers, then discuss the differences between the way they themselves were taught math and how students are taught today.

4. Share the current vision of mathematics

It is important for teachers to share with parents the current vision of mathematics, how math is now taught and why, and how educators and parents can know that a child has succeeded in learning. Parents need to understand the Ontario curriculum as well as the strands outlined in the curriculum.

5. Provide a problem-solving experience

Engaging parents in a non-threatening, problem-solving activity can help them understand not only the importance of problem solving, but also the mathematical strategies they will see their children using.