

Knoxville CUSD #202 Mathematics Vision Statement

Introduction

The following vision statement was created by the Mathematics Curriculum Review Team in the spring of 2016. Careful thought was put into this document knowing that it would be viewed by teachers and staff members within the school district as well as parents, members of the community, and others outside of the school district. We believe that this statement represents what we value, what we hope for, and what we are committed to with respect to the teaching and learning of Mathematics in our school district.

Our Vision

First and foremost, we believe that all students can learn and can be successful in Math. In order for that to happen, there must be collaboration between students, parents/guardians, and their teachers. We expect students to come to school prepared to learn, to monitor their progress and behavior, to respect themselves and others, and take ownership for their learning. We work under the assumption that parents/guardians will monitor their student's progress regularly, ensure that students are meeting our expectations, proactively communicate with us when there are questions and/or concerns, and be actively involved in their student's learning. As educators we will challenge students to grow while providing the most safe and supportive learning environment possible. We will also strive to give students the skills and tools to be successful, and proactively communicate with students and parents/guardians when there are questions and/or concerns.

Our Commitment

In order to facilitate students' success, we will:

- differentiate and individualize instruction,
- help students apply their learning through "real world" experiences, and make connections in other content areas,
- strive to help students understand not only "how" problems are solved, but the mathematical reasoning behind the solution,
- persevere...continuing to work through challenges and not give up,
- provide the best resources that we can including the use of technology, manipulatives, and more,

- work for accuracy,
- demonstrate number sense...what numbers “mean”, and
- solve problems and think critically

Reinforcement and Homework

We will provide opportunities for practice and reinforcement both in school and outside of school. Practice outside of school (homework) is used to reinforce concepts and skills.

Homework also serves as a means for parents/guardians to know what concepts are being covered in class.

Monitoring Student Progress and Assessments

We monitor student progress by collecting data over time. We use data about how students are progressing to modify instruction as needed. This is done with a whole class, in small groups, individually, and in a combination of those settings depending on the content and activity. We assess student learning through:

- informal monitoring in class...asking questions, checking for understanding, teacher observations, and conversations/discussions in class,
- homework and in-class assignments/activities,
- projects that allow students to demonstrate their learning,
- benchmarking by using MAP, AIMSWEB, STAR Reading, STAR Math, Core Phonics, ISEL, and other tools,
- tests and quizzes, and
- standardized tests such as PARCC, ACCESS, DLM, ACT/SAT, and more