Parent Guide to Mathematics

Mathematics Information is located under RtI Math. Information for Parents is located under Parent Information.

Assessments used to measure mathematics progress are listed below. Families are encouraged to ask their child's teacher for more information about each assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Grade(s)</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT Aspire</td>
<td>9 – 10</td>
<td>Monitor progress of mathematics skills for students who had identified needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT American College Readiness</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Measure college readiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Progress</td>
<td>K – 12</td>
<td>Monitors progress of mathematics skills for students who had identified needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAR Math</td>
<td>K – 12</td>
<td>Measure academic readiness for college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI State Assessment</td>
<td>3 – 8</td>
<td>Measure career and college readiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American College Test</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Measure academic readiness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please select more information about each assessment.
What is mathematics?
Mathematics consists of understanding numbers and relationships and being efficient and accurate in solving problems. All the while having the ability to apply these concepts in real world context through perseverance. The MPS Comprehensive Mathematics and Science Plan provides a framework for high-quality mathematics instruction and learning.

What does mathematics in the classroom look like?
- Whole group instruction – Math instruction begins with a teacher launching the lesson. A launch is meant to capture your child’s attention and connect to his/her past experiences.
- Small group instruction – Your child engages in mathematics by looking for patterns, investigating different strategies and applying what was learned in a new context.
- Whole group instruction – A teacher guides your child, through discussion, to reach the mathematical goal of the lesson.

How will I know if my child is struggling with mathematics?
Your child may struggle with mathematics if you notice any of the following:
- Difficulty retrieving math facts
- Difficulty explaining answers
- Difficulty applying their knowledge to new problems
- Child gives up easily on homework
- Performing below grade level

What does it mean when my child needs an intervention?
If your child does not meet academic standards, your child may be identified to receive an academic intervention. An intervention is a combination of computer-based and teacher-led small group instruction. An intervention will focus on the specific skills where your child is having trouble.

What can I do if my child is excelling in mathematics?
- Request enrichment opportunities for your child.
- Visit the National Association for Gifted Children at www.nagc.org.

What can I do to support mathematics at home?
- Create an environment at home for your child that supports learning. Ask what he/she has learned in school.
- When your child asks a question, respond by saying, “That’s a good question. What do you think?” or “How can we find out?”
- Don’t pretend that you know the answer and don’t feel badly about not knowing. Show your child how to go about finding the answer.
- Make math interactive in the kitchen (measure and count ingredients; use a kitchen timer, scale or measuring tape to explore time, weight, length).
- Connect math concepts at home (shapes of objects, create a word problem using sports statistics, count money or make a budget).
- Attend parent teacher conferences to learn what your child could work on at home.
- Utilize MPS online resources provided on the district website.
- Become familiar with mathematics standards and assessments.

Have fun with mathematics!