HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CDSB

Promoting Good Beginnings

Kindergarten - Grade 3

What Does Math Class Look Like Today?

The Importance of Talk

Talk is fundamental to both knowing and learning mathematics. Students need opportunities in small-group and whole-class settings to discuss their thinking, questions, and arguments.

Group work also provides students with a learning environment that encourages more discussion versus a teacher-led lesson only. Students should have regular opportunities to collaboratively work on and talk about problem-solving with their peers.

What does this look like in the classroom?

If you peeked inside your child's math class, you might notice students:

- Working on their own, in pairs, in small groups, independently, and with teacher direction.
- Engaged in a wide variety of tasks and math practicing skills, solving problems about real-life situations, and applying math concepts.
- Using a variety of tools, such as manipulatives, paper and pencil, chart paper and markers, and digital devices to demonstrate/write and record their math thinking.
- Talking about connections they have made personally or exploring new math concepts and skills.
- Sharing their strategies for solving a problem.

Number Talks

Number talks provide students with a different perspective on mathematics, and helps them understand critical numerical relationships. Number talks also foster classrooms in which students feel encouraged to share their thinking, and these discussions help to strengthen listening skills in the classroom.

Number talks video – Jo Boaler

Differentiated Instruction

In today's math class, instructional choices reflect the learning needs of the students and target the level of support required. Instruction is adaptive to student learning interests, preferences and assessed needs.

Student readiness, interests and learning preferences vary greatly within any mathematics classroom. Students will differ in their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts, and in their use of mathematical skills such as mental math and estimation.

How can you support the development of a growth mindset in your child?

- Growth Mindsets
- Mindsets and Mistakes
- Math I Can video

At-Home Support (Kindergarten - Grade 3)

Homework and parental involvement can positively impact student learning and their behaviour towards math, particularly in elementary school.

Here are some helpful resources to support your child with math at home:

- Math Before Bed
- Doing Mathematics with Your Child (K-6)
- Doing Mathematics with Your Child (K-6) Additional Languages
- Inspiring Your Child to Love and Learn Math: Count Together (Kindergarten)
- Inspiring Your Child to Love and Learn Math: Making it Count Primary
- Encouraging Math Learning at Home (OECTA Resource)
- Six Ways to Support Your Child's Mathematical Development
- Youcubed
- Online Manipulatives to Support Learning