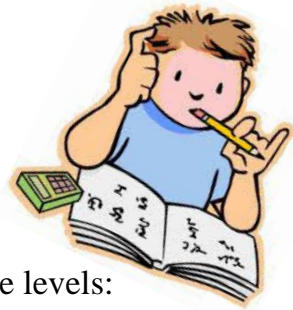


Students will learn the 'why' behind the math concept before they learn the 'how'.



Dear Families,

Math in Focus assessments are designed to measure student understanding at three levels: ***Basic***, ***Application***, and ***Novel***. While many math programs include both ***Basic*** and ***Application*** questions in their assessments, ***Novel*** questions are a unique component of the assessments in the ***Math in Focus*** program.

Basic questions require students to demonstrate foundational skills and basic understanding. Students who respond accurately to these types of questions can solve simple word problems, perform basic computations, and demonstrate that they have acquired the necessary skills and understandings to allow instruction to move forward. **The grade level expectation is that all students will achieve mastery at this level.**

Application questions require students to apply their skills and understandings to routine situations. Students who respond accurately to these types of questions are able to apply their learning to word problems and questions that are similar to those experienced in classroom instruction. **The grade level expectation is that most students will achieve mastery at this level.**

Novel questions require students to transfer their skills and understandings to unique situations. Students who respond accurately to these types of questions are able to solve problems they have never experienced in their classroom instruction. Through conceptualization and generalization, they can see the relationship between their classroom instruction and the novel situation – and solve the problem. ***Novel*** questions enable teachers to assess for *deep* conceptual understanding. Without them, teachers would primarily be assessing students on their procedural skill – the ability to follow a learned sequence of steps. This approach to assessment is a unique and essential part of preparing students for success, and it is a strength of the ***Math in Focus*** program. **The grade level expectation is that only some students will achieve mastery at this level.**

Because *Math in Focus* assessments include *Basic*, *Application*, and *Novel* questions, students who are meeting grade level expectations are not required to be proficient at answering all test questions and may still be working on some of the skills and strategies included in the assessments.

We hope that this information provides some clarification for you and that it will be helpful in reviewing your child's math assessments this year.

Thank you.
Ms. Luciana Bradley
Principal

