



ACCELERATED MATH FAQ

Dear Parents,

We are in full swing with the Accelerated Math (AM) program and we would like to take a moment to inform you about the program and hopefully answer any questions you might have. AM is an individualized math program for students of all abilities that meets the National Council of Teacher of Mathematics Standards. At Christ the King School, we have aligned the program with the Diocesan mathematics curriculum and we teach the concepts required for each particular grade level. The student data is managed by a computer software package that was purchased from Renaissance Learning. Students practice various concepts and, when ready, they test on the concepts. If they need intervention we provide it in small group and/or individualized settings. After a student has tested on a concept, the student will periodically have review questions on his/her Practice sheets so he will maintain competency in tested concepts.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. Why are there different colored AM papers in my child's Friday Folder?

When students are practicing new concepts or reviewing tested ones, the papers are printed on white paper. All tests are printed on blue paper and yellow papers indicate that the child had special intervention from the teacher.

2. What is a TOPS report?

Each assignment is scored using a scanner in the classroom. The results of the assignment are printed on a TOPS report. This report allows students to see how they performed on each assignment. It gives a percentage grade, lists the concepts that were covered, and shows incorrect responses. Most importantly, the student's cumulative averages for Practices, Tests and Reviews are noted. Student goals for each nine weeks and their accomplishments are also on the TOPS reports.

3. Which grades are taken from the TOPS reports?

Two grades are taken from the AM reports. We record the cumulative **Test average** and the cumulative **Review average** for grading purposes. The Practice sheets are just that – practice. **We do not count the Practice average when recording grades.** This will hopefully encourage students to take risks on material and knowing that they will not be penalized. It also helps us to see which concepts we need to emphasize during instruction.

4. My child has set a goal in AM. What does that mean?

Students will have the opportunity to set a goal for each nine weeks. With the teacher's guidance, the child will determine how many objectives they think they can master. Mastery is made when a student can complete a specified number of problems per concept on a test. Objectives can only be mastered on a test, therefore it is important that the students practice problems on the Practice sheets so they will be ready for a test.

5. Sometimes my child has a red ticket stapled to his practice. Why is that?

Each student is given 3 red tickets every 9 weeks. If a student loses a practice and needs a reprint, then she may use a red ticket to obtain the reprint during class. If a student bubbles answers incorrectly, they may ask for a re-score by using one of their red tickets. After all 3 tickets have been used, no re-scores are allowed and all reprints will have to be done during recess time. This encourages students to stay organized and to bubble answers carefully. It also allows teachers more instructional time during math class and less time is spent at the computer doing reprints or re-scores.

I hope this answers some of your questions that you may have about the Accelerated Math program. We are very excited to have the program here at Christ the King School and feel our students will benefit greatly from the work. If you would like some further information or have other concerns, please call us at 292-9465.