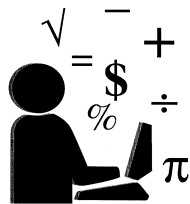


Information for Parents and Guardians

Middle Level Mathematics Assessment June, 2004



Mathematics - It Really Counts!

Mathematics is a very important skill, one which we all need in our technological world. Mathematics is not just work we do in school but, rather, it is a part of life. All of us - parents and guardians as well as educators - need to encourage children to think of themselves as mathematicians who can reason and solve problems.

Additional information about this assessment can be found at <http://www.gnb.ca/education>.

Education

New Brunswick

As New Brunswick continues to strengthen the mathematics curriculum, it is also committed to assessing how well students are progressing. This is done in an effort to determine how we can help students do better and to keep parents and guardians informed about their children's progress.

We realize that parents and guardians may have questions about this assessment. You will find the answers to many of your questions in this information brochure. If you have other concerns, please contact your child's school and the principal will be pleased to provide further information.

We hope you will support and encourage your child to prepare for this assessment. Students should schedule their review periods well in advance of the assessment dates. Many students keep a folder or portfolio of assignments and tests which can be helpful for review. Also, by writing summaries of class/text notes, making a list of terms with definitions and/or drawings, and by redoing problems which were done earlier in the year, students can prepare for the assessment.

When will the assessment take place?

The Middle Level Mathematics Assessment will be done in three parts and will take place over a 2-day period:

Day/Date	Section	Time Allotment
Wednesday June 2/2004 (morning)	Section A: Multiple Choice	90 minutes
Thursday June 3/2004 (morning)	Section B: Non-Calculator	20 minutes
	Section C: Open Response	90 minutes

What will the assessment cover?

The Middle Level Mathematics Assessment is based on the current grade 8 mathematics curriculum which describes what students are expected to know within each of the following strands:

- **Number**
Number Concepts
Operations
- **Patterns and Relations**
- **Measurement and Geometry**
- **Data Management and Probability**

Note: Algebra is incorporated into the Operations strand and the Patterns and Relations strand.

What skills are being assessed?

Some questions test computational skills and basic math facts. Others are designed to assess a student’s problem-solving, reasoning and communication abilities. These skills are taught and assessed through all strands of the curriculum.

Will students use their calculators when writing the assessment?

The use of calculators is encouraged for Sections A and C of the assessment. All students should have a calculator which performs addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as well as having memory, percent, square root, exponent, reciprocal, and +/– keys.

Section B of the Middle Level Mathematics Assessment consists of a number of questions students are expected to answer **without** the use of a calculator. **A knowledge of basic facts and procedures is critical in doing mental arithmetic and estimation.** Our curriculum promotes the learning of computation and estimation for the purpose of fostering a solid understanding of, and proficiency with, simple calculations.

Will French Immersion students be doing the assessment in French?

French Immersion students will be given a bilingual version of the assessment. Since students in New Brunswick have entered the French Immersion program at different points, a bilingual version of the assessment will accommodate the diversity of second language competencies. **French Immersion students will be able to respond to any item in either French or English** so that language does not interfere with their ability to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics.

Who developed the assessment and who will mark it?

The assessment was developed by a committee composed of teachers, school district personnel, members of the U.N.B. Math Centre, and members of the Department of Education curriculum and evaluation branches. The marking session, which is organized and conducted by the Department of Education, is scheduled for July. Markers will include teachers, school administrators, and district office staff.

***How will results be reported?
When will these results be available?***

In September, students will receive individual results which will include how well they did in each of the subject strands (Number, Patterns and Relations, Measurement and Geometry, Data Management and Probability).

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Mathematics - It Really Counts!

Please acknowledge receipt of this information brochure with your signature and ask your child to return this portion to the school.
Thank you

Signature