

Everything you ever wanted to know about High School Math

The following is meant to answer some of the questions that you may have regarding the new curriculum. If you still have some questions after you have read this, please don't hesitate to contact the school and speak to:

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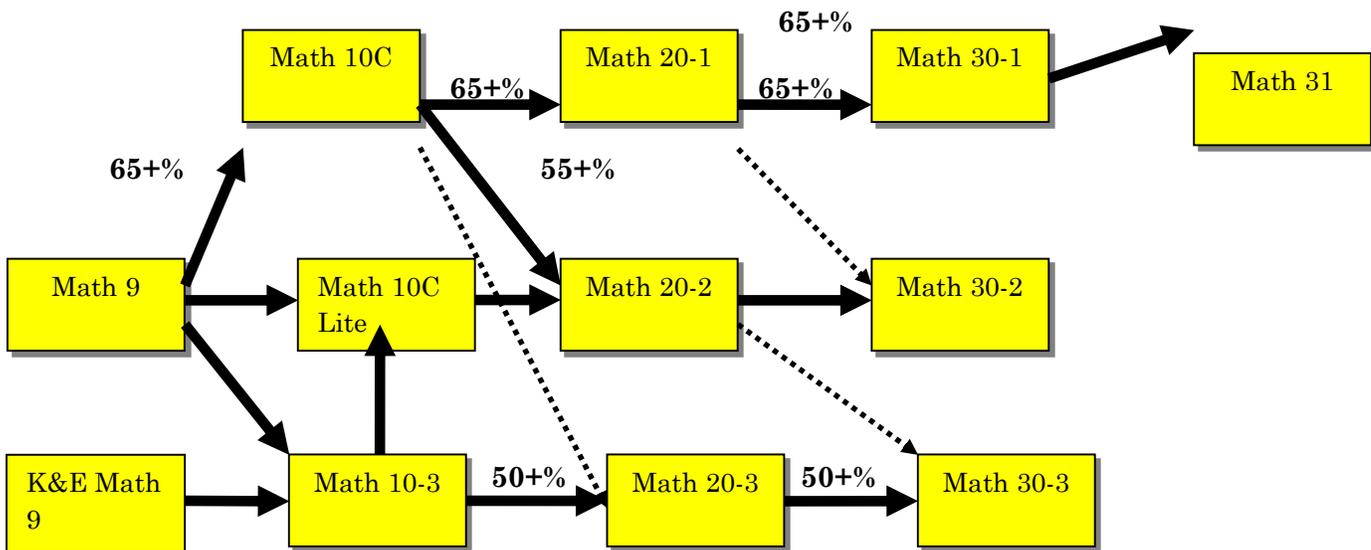
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****Please Note, the following information applies only to High School Math. The guidelines for English and Social Studies are different.****

Below is a diagram of the layout of high school Math at WR Myers. To help you navigate this picture, we've broken it down into the most popular questions and answers that we get as a department.



1. My child is in Math 9 right now, and I'm not sure what advice I should give them regarding which Math class to take in their Grade 10 year?

- If your child feels confident in their abilities in Math, and they are sitting at a mark of at least 65%, we would encourage them to take Math 10 C next year.
- If your child struggles in Math, but they are still experiencing success (a mark of at least 55%) we would encourage them to take Math 10 C Lite next year. This is the first year we are trying this course. Math 10C Lite will be modeled after the regular Math 10 C course, with some of the objectives covered to a lesser degree. This course will contain the same number of units as regular 10C, but the depth to which those units go will be decreased. Students who take Math 10 C Lite, and pass, can **ONLY** register in either Math 20-2 or Math 20-3 the following year. Registration in Math 20-1 will NOT be permitted, as the algebra content necessary for success in 20-1 will be one of the main concepts that will be reduced in 10 C Lite.

- If your child does not find success in Math 9, then your child will need to enroll in Math 10 – 3.
- If your child is currently enrolled in Math 9 K and E, then the only math course they can enroll in next year is Math 10-3. If they are successful in Math 10-3, then they may enroll in Math 10C Lite as their next course.

2. If I enroll my child in Math 10-3, but they need -2 math for their post- secondary studies, how do I make that happen?

- The best route would be to take 10-3 math first. Once they pass that course (we are recommending a mark of at least 75%), to then register in Math 10 C Lite. As long as they pass this course, they can then register in Math 20-2.
- The reason for the 75% grade in 10-3 is due to the fact that all the algebra at the grade 10 level, builds on the concepts that students saw in grade 9. Since 10-3 doesn't have any algebra in it, those students coming into 10C from 10-3 have a much bigger gap to fill. This will require more dedication on behalf of the student, and a strong work ethic.

3. My child is in Math 10 C right now, and I'm not sure what advice I should give them regarding which Math class to take in their Grade 11 year?

The answer to this question is more involved than just what their mark is now.

- If your child has an interest in the medical fields (not including nursing), engineering, or some business fields (accounting, etc), then most of the post-secondary institutions are requiring students to have Math 30-1 and sometimes Math 31(Calculus) as well.
- If your child has an interest in the trades fields (not including electrician), then most of the post-secondary institutions are requiring students to have Math 30-3.
- If your child plans on going onto post-secondary, but not into either of the above two areas, then 30-2 is the recommended route. 30-2 is accepted as a pre-requisite course for MOST university programs.

From the position of Alberta Education, they predict 60% of the student body should be in the - 2 courses, 20% in the - 1 courses, and 20% in the - 3 courses. If you look at the percentage of jobs in society, this is approximately how they are laid out as well.

4. So your next question is probably, my child doesn't know what they want to do, so I'm still not sure what advice to give them?

If that's the situation, then we can look at grades to help us out.

- To go from Math 10 C to Math 20-1, is a large **LEAP** in difficulty. There is much more algebraic content, as well as an increase in pace and workload. As such, we recommend students have at least a 70% to move into that course.

- To go from Math 10 C to Math 20-2, is still a **JUMP** in difficulty, but not as much as the one into -1. There is slightly more algebraic content, but the pace and work load remain relatively the same as at the grade 10 level. We recommend students have at least a 60% to move into that course.
- To go from Math 10 C to Math 20-3, is more of a sideways movement. There is less algebra and a slower pace. We recommend students who have less than 60% to move into that course.
- ✓ It must be noted that if a student fails Math 10 C, they have two options for grade 11: either redo Math 10 C or take Math 20-3. If your child passes Math 20-3, they will get retro credits for Math 10-3. If your child fails Math 20-3, they must go all the way back to the beginning and try Math 10 C again, or take Math 10 – 3. We call this “Double Jeopardy”.
- ✓ Please note these are recommendations only. As a math department, we have a pretty good feel for these courses and the work ethic and background information that students need to be successful in them. We want your child to feel successful in their chosen course, not frustrated. However, as long as your child passes Math 10 C (ie. A minimum of 50%) they can enroll in any course that they so choose.
- ✓ Please note that once your child is in the – 3 course stream, they cannot get into the – 2 or – 1 stream. If your child needs to be in one of these streams, they must take and pass Math 10 C or 10C Lite.
- ✓ Please note that in grade 11, all of your child’s courses will be getting harder. If they are pretty sure they don’t need the – 1 stream of Math, it may be in your child’s best interest to take the – 2 route for Math, so as to allow them to devote extra time to the courses that they will definitely need.

5. My child is OK in Math, but he/she does struggle sometimes. However, they want to go into a post-secondary field that requires the – 1 stream. How can I help them get there?

The best advice we can give in this situation is to enroll your child in Math 20-2 in grade 11 after they have achieved success in Math 10 C. The next step would be to enroll in Math 30 - 2. Once they pass 30-2, they can then enroll in Math 30-1. The benefits of doing this are listed below.

- ✓ By taking the – 2 route, your child is still getting a high school math program that is accepted into most post-secondary programs. So, if your child changes their mind in grade 12, and no longer needs the – 1 course, they have achieved a grade 12 math program.
- ✓ By taking Math 30 – 2 first and 30 – 1 second, your child will probably find 30 – 1 a little bit easier, since some of the concepts in 30 – 2 are repeated in 30 – 1.
- ✓ Most students have no problem fitting in this second course in their grade 12 year.

6. Are there any other sources of information out there?

Yes. The internet has fantastic information available for parents:

- ✓ If your child is interested in the trades, go to
http://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/SOURCES/PDFS/Entrance_Requirements.pdf
www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca

- ✓ If your child has an idea as to what careers are of interest to them, they can find program requirements for all Alberta post-secondary institutions here:
<http://alis.alberta.ca/edinfo/Content/RequestAction.asp?format=html&aspAction=GetHomePage&Page=Home>. Your child can search by post-secondary institution or by program/field that they are interested in.

- ✓ Alberta Education has some fantastic information for parents on our curriculum as well as some great videos:
<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/math.aspx>

We hope this information has been useful to you. If you have any further questions, or need some clarifications, please don't hesitate to contact the school.