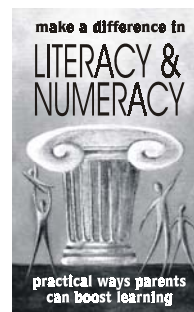


Help your child prepare for the grade 9 provincial math test

Everything you wanted to know about the provincial assessment but were afraid to ask



First some mental gymnastics: A woman purchased something at the hardware store. She was told that one item would cost \$3, ten would cost \$6 and one hundred would cost \$9. What was she buying? (Check the bottom of the page for the answer.)

Facts about the grade 9 provincial test

- All students in Grade 9 academic and applied math will write the test near the end of their math course. The test is usually spread out over four days.
- The test is made up of three parts:
 - ✓ 24 multiple choice questions
 - ✓ 10 short answer items
 - ✓ 6 tasks (extended problems) – the tasks are split up over two days.
- Results are usually sent to schools around December or January.

Quick math joke: What did the acorn say when it grew up?
Ge-om-e-try!!



What you can do to help

Know what they're learning

Grade 9 math isn't the same grade 9 math we learned back when you were in high school. Many factors have changed what students learn and how they learn it. Here are some tips:

- The grade 9 curriculum is available online at www.edu.gov.on.ca. Read through it and become familiar with the material that is covered in the program.
- Look over the course outline provided by your teen's math teacher at the start of the course. This will give you an idea of the topics as well

as the order they are covered and the mark breakdown.

- Look over some sample questions from the EQAO web site – www.eqao.com. There are examples of each type of question, scoring guides to help you understand how the questions are marked as well as some sample student responses. Try doing some timed practice sessions a couple of days before the test.

Another bad joke: What does the little mermaid wear?
An Alge-bra!!



What about the day of the test?

- Try to avoid absences during the week of the test.
- Ensure that your teen has all the necessary equipment to write the test (i.e. calculator, pencils, eraser, ruler and geometry set)
- Encourage your teen to do their best. Many schools are now using portions of the assessment as a part of the overall mark. Talk to your teen's teacher to find out if he does count it and how much it is worth.
- Encourage your teen to answer all the questions. Communication is one of the areas that is marked. If she has the wrong answer, but has communicated a logical solution, it will help her communication mark.
- Try to model a positive attitude about the test and math in general, e.g. "I bet it will be interesting and challenging."
- Talk to your teen about what he did each day, if he had any trouble and what he can do to avoid any problems in the future.
- The ministry of education has a great guide called *Helping your child learn math: A Parents Guide* available online.

Workshop delivered by Mary Beth Fortune, Vice-Principal. Tip sheet prepared by Paul Alves, Teacher.