

Introduction

Mathematics Curriculum for the Diocese of Erie Catholic Schools

The mathematics curriculum for the Diocese of Erie is designed to foster students' skills in computation, mathematical reasoning, and deep thinking as they address grade-appropriate themes and topics. On a practical level, the mathematics curriculum is also designed to promote consistency throughout schools in the Diocese of Erie while providing for the flexibility teachers need to respond to the diverse needs of their students. Each course, or grade level, is divided into six to nine units. Each unit is an overview, which includes the title and purpose of the unit, timeframe, essential questions, standards, reinforced standards, vocabulary, computation skills, performance assessments, thinking and reasoning skills, real world problems, Catholic identity integration, reading and writing integration, questioning strategies, technology, and strategies for differentiation.

Each unit overview is designed to focus instruction on big ideas in mathematics and to provide instructional support. Unit topics, essential questions, standards, standards reinforced, and timelines are required elements of each module. Within reason, teachers may adjust the timeframe to meet the needs of their students. Special care should be taken to ensure all units receive the necessary instructional time and that unit overviews placed at the end of the year are not unduly shortened because of extra time spent on previous modules.

All remaining elements of the unit overview serve as support for the teacher. They contain a variety of strategies, activities, and resources to assist teachers in planning instruction so that students can meet the goals of each module. In and of itself, a unit overview is not a lesson plan. Its scope, format, and sequence do not lend themselves to the kind of planning necessary for daily lessons. Instead, the unit overview is used together with the teacher's expertise, school textbook, and other outside resources to develop lesson plans.

As in every subject, the factor that most strongly influences student success is the classroom teacher. Thank you for the good work that you do for our students and your daily commitment to quality education.

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