

Excel Math Lesson Overview

The School Year

- First 6-8 weeks of **Excel Math** lessons review the previous grade concepts. This strategy allows you to evaluate your class's grasp of basic math concepts. We want the students to feel confident before we introduce new ideas.
- The majority of the school year is devoted to spiraling, introduction and practice of math concepts, with mastery the end result.
- 27 weekly tests, 4 Quarterly Tests, 2 End-of-Year Tests (to assess the students' grasp of the entire year's content)
- The final 6-8 weeks of lessons each year summarize what has been learned and introduce some new concepts that will be taught at the next grade level.

Each Week

- We introduce several new concepts, practice the old ones, and prepare for assessment a week later.
- There are 6 Student Lesson Sheets:
 - 5 sheets that each have a lesson section plus Guided Practice, homework (with our unique CheckAnswer system) and basic fact practice
 - 1 sheet with a test followed by a higher-level problem solving exercise (Create A Problem).
- The *Create A Problem* story problems are progressive in nature, increasing rigor in both complexity of problem solving and developing literacy skills. By the end of the year, students will write story endings and create problems from their own writing.

Daily

- Lesson – direct instruction of the objective of the day.
- Basic Fact Practice – continual math fact practice after the lesson.
- Guided Practice – independent practice of previously taught concepts, guided by the teacher.
- Homework – practice of concepts taught in previous week.
- Stretches - math problems and brainteasers to expand higher-order thinking skills.

Assessment

- 27 weekly tests, 4 Quarterly Tests, 2 Year-End Tests in the upper grades.
- Tests are a mix of story problem, calculation, true-false and multiple choice questions.
- Continual assessment through our unique CheckAnswer system provides immediate feedback loops.
- Quarterly Tests help students practice with “bubble-in” answer sheets.
- Year-End Tests help teachers assess students' grasp of the entire year's content.
- Tests include a chart indicating which concepts are included on the test and on which lesson the concept was first introduced. Teachers can review any concepts missed by a number of students.

Excel Math Lessons

Mon, Tues, Wed. Thurs.

Lesson
Guided Practice
Basic Fact Practice
Homework

Friday: Weekly

Critical Thinking Lesson
Guided Practice
Test on front of page
Create A Problem on back

Friday: Quarterly

Lesson
Guided Practice
Quarterly Test on 1-2 pages