

## DEAR PARENTS:

This Parent Report is designed to share important new developments in mathematics.

The first is the way the new curriculum for math has been developed. The new curriculum framework is based on outcomes defined in a project called the Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education, K-12.

This ongoing project has brought together the four western provinces and two territories as partners to identify the knowledge, skills and attitudes students should have at the end of each grade. Work is complete for mathematics and language arts and is continuing on other subjects.

We believe that the common curriculum frameworks developed under the Western Canadian Protocol and the Manitoba curriculum frameworks based on them will greatly improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessing in our schools.

The new frameworks set high expectations for teachers and students of mathematics. They cover more material and at greater depth than earlier curricula. Most importantly, they make the development of thinking skills the central focus of all learning experiences.

In practical terms, these newly developed curriculum frameworks will make it easier for students to move from school to school without jeopardizing their progress. Expectations will be consistent from province to territory, school to school, classroom to classroom.

This Parent Report will highlight some features of the new mathematics frameworks and discuss ways parents can help their child learn. By working together, we can help ensure that every child can enjoy and experience success in mathematics.

- Visit the Education, Training and Youth Web site at: <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca>



## SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT FOR WESTERN EDUCATION COLLABORATION

The signing of the Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education, Kindergarten to Grade 12, in December of 1993 marked the beginning of joint development projects in education for the four western provinces and two territories.

Projects completed under this agreement include **The Common Curriculum Framework for K - 12 Mathematics**.

The common curriculum framework for mathematics identifies what the four provinces and two territories believe students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade. It is then up to each jurisdiction to decide how the framework is to be used for their students. In Manitoba, the western framework has been used to develop our own curriculum framework documents for mathematics.

These curriculum frameworks help ensure that our expectations for Manitoba students are as high as those for students anywhere in Western Canada. They increase students' opportunities for self-fulfilment and for their roles as leaders who will take Manitoba into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

# WHY

## IS IT IMPORTANT TO STUDY MATHEMATICS?

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**Mathematics is much more than arithmetic ( $= + - \times \div$ ).**

**Mathematics is**

- a useful tool in everyday life
- a language
- the study of patterns and relations
- a way of thinking
- an art

**Students who are successful in mathematics**

- are “numerate” in arithmetic and possess a wide variety of mathematics skills
- have more self-confidence in problem-solving situations
- are better prepared to make informed decisions
- are more capable of processing information
- are more competent at understanding the world around them
- have more career opportunities open to them
- can apply mathematical processes to many areas of their life and work
- appreciate the value of math as a useful tool in everyday living
- are better prepared to live in a world of changing technology



# TAKING OFF INTO THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY



To be ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a student needs to

appreciate and  
value math

commit to  
lifelong  
learning



communicate  
and reason  
mathematically

use mathematics  
confidently  
to solve problems

be able to use  
mathematics  
to contribute  
to our society

