

Math at a Glance

Shifts in Mathematics

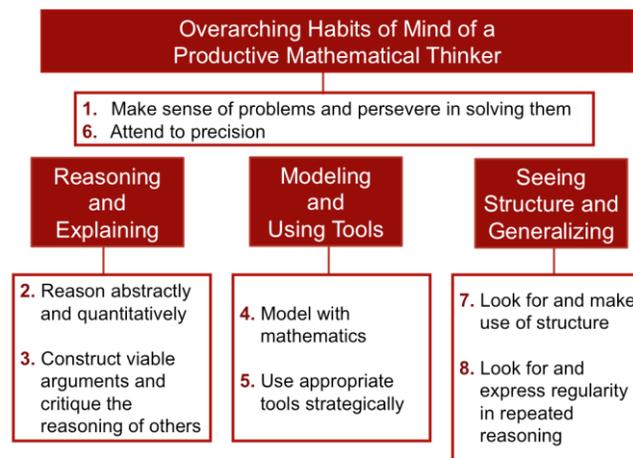
- **Focus** – Teachers use the power of the eraser and significantly narrow and deepen the scope of how time and energy is spent in the math classroom. They do so in order to focus deeply on only the concepts that are prioritized in the standards so that students reach strong foundational knowledge and deep conceptual understanding and are able to transfer mathematical skills and understanding across concepts and grades.
- **Coherence** – Principals and teachers carefully connect the learning within and across grades so that students can build new understanding onto foundations built in previous years. Teachers can begin to count on deep conceptual understanding of core content and build on it. Each standard is not a new event, but an extension of previous learning.

Components of Rigor:

- **Fluency** – Students are expected to have speed and accuracy with simple calculations and procedures so that they are more able to understand and manipulate more complex concepts.
- **Deep Understanding** – Teachers teach more than “how to get the answer”; they support students’ ability to access concepts from a number of perspectives so that students are able to see math as more than a set of mnemonics or discrete procedures. Students demonstrate deep conceptual understanding of core math concepts by applying them to new situations as well as writing and speaking about their understanding.
- **Application** – Students are expected to use math and choose the appropriate concept for application even when they are not prompted to do so. Teachers provide opportunities to apply math concepts in “real world” situations. Teachers in content areas outside of math ensure that students are using math to make meaning of and access content.
- **Dual Intensity** – There is a balance between practice and understanding; both are occurring with intensity. Teachers create opportunities for students to participate in “drills” and make use of those skills through extended application of math concepts.

Mathematical Practices

1. *Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.*
2. *Reason abstractly and quantitatively.*
3. *Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.*
4. *Model with mathematics.*
5. *Use appropriate tools strategically.*
6. *Attend to precision.*
7. *Look for and make use of structure.*
8. *Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.*



What to Look For in the Math Classroom

- Teachers use higher level questioning strategies such as “Why?” (probing for justifications)
- Teaching and learning for conceptual understanding and fluency
- Discussion of varied problem-solving approaches
- Making connections between problem situations and expressions/equations
- Students being asked to defend their actions and answers both verbally and in writing
- Students working in partners and groups
- Teachers using models during demonstrations
- Encouraging students to model math ideas with manipulatives, pictures, graphs, and technology
- Emphasis on students making decisions about which tools to use
- Accurate calculations
- Precise mathematical communication and attention to math vocabulary
- Questioning to prompt students to observe for patterns and relationships
- Investigations that allow students to gather data, look for patterns and interpret results