

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **What does the IB Mathematics program entail?**

Although the IB program and the Alberta curriculum are similar, some differences exist. In Math 10C IB, we cover an additional chapter on probability. In Math 20 IB, we introduce students to some coordinate geometry and proofs and in Math 30-1 IB we look at introductory statistics. In Math 31 IB students will write an essay for their IB Internal Assessment, as well as two final IB exams in May. In light of the extra topics, we need to move through material at a slightly faster pace making student time management skills essential. Typically, students planning to take IB math, enroll on both Math 10C IB and Math 20-1 IB in their Grade 10 year.

### **Can you explain the essay component of IB Mathematics?**

The IB Internal Assessment is a research paper written in Math 31 IB. It is intended to be an opportunity for students to expand their own knowledge in a self-chosen direction. Students select a topic they are interested in, and then look for and explore the math inherent in that topic. Topics could pertain to sport, music, science, art, or even mathematics.

### **I am concerned that I will no longer be able to help my child with their mathematics homework. What supports are in place if there is an issue?**

Should your child struggle with mathematics, there are several supports available. Arrangements for assistance can be made with our mathematics teachers at a mutually agreeable time, whether it be before school, during lunch or after school. Other, more general homework help services are offered at scheduled times during the week. If needed, our Student Services department can offer a list of available tutors. Additionally, almost all of the high school mathematics course content is available on YouTube in videos tailored to the resources used by Ross Sheppard students.

### **My child has struggled with mathematics in junior high. What courses should he/she take?**

The answer to this is often dependent on what your child would like to pursue after high school. If they struggled a bit in Grade 9 Math and their intent is to attend university, then taking Math 15 is recommended. It will serve to fill in knowledge gaps that may exist and prepare them for Math 10C. Following Math 10C, students can choose either the regular mathematics -2 stream or an algebraically intensive -1 stream designed to prepare students for calculus studies. Students who may have struggled more significantly in math in junior high may find that Math 10-3 suits them better. While taking the -3 mathematics stream does not fulfill university entrance requirements, there are several programs at NAIT and other post-secondary institutions where the -3 math courses do meet entrance requirements. It is advisable for students to research post secondary institutions and their programs to determine the mathematics entrance requirements when planning their high school pathways. Of importance to note, is the fact that a20-level math course is a requirement for graduation.

### **What is the difference between the -1 and the -2 streams?**

The -2 stream is considered to be the regular stream in mathematics. It is designed to allow students admission into university, in fields not requiring calculus. The -1 stream is intended to

prepare students for the algebraic demands of a calculus course. Frequently, parents express concern about the possibility of closing doors for their child's future. One must take into consideration that a poor mark in the -1 stream might not open as many doors as a good mark in the -2 stream. Ultimately, it is important to carefully weigh your child's future goals and mathematical ability.