

## Journal 2.1: Change Project

I imagine I will lead a change by vertically aligning our Integrated Mathematics courses throughout the 2024-25 school year. For the purpose of this project, vertical alignment occurs when the concepts taught from each course segue into the next one, potentially leaving loose ends for future learning in higher-level courses (or independent study). Visually, accomplishing vertical alignment would appear like a tree, where the trunk constitutes a robust backbone or structure, and the branches lead to future learning.

This project involves every teacher within the department, bringing a set of challenges and strengths. The timeline could span the entire school year or multiple years since many newer teachers were recently hired (myself included), and our futures are slightly more chaotic than our tenured/permanent counterparts. Utilizing SWOT analysis could potentially reduce bandwagoning behavior, providing greater parity among the department members.

I chose this project because the department has historically struggled with it, and I think it would be an excellent thought experiment to hash out and perhaps lead eventually. Stemming from the questions, "How can I best help my department, and where can I bring value," I see an opportunity to smooth out the learning curve difficulty when students advance from course to course and grow their mathematical knowledge. Because my site uses the quarter system, students must learn at an accelerated pace, so having these three courses fully fleshed out and aligned creates greater accessibility and opportunity to learn and progress.