



# Las Lomas Elementary School District

Inclusive. Engaging. Inspiring.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Curriculum

1. [2024 Thought Exchange Report](#)
2. [March 2025 Attendance Report](#)
3. [March 2025 Math Program Overview Report](#)
4. What is academic rigor?

| Academic Rigor is:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Academic Rigor is not:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work that challenges students in new and interesting ways</li><li>• Based on student need</li><li>• Deepening understanding</li><li>• Encourages curiosity</li><li>• Engages students in problem-solving and critical thinking</li><li>• Allows students to make meaning for themselves</li><li>• Challenges students to integrate information or skills</li><li>• Students are given multiple ways to demonstrate learning</li><li>• For all students</li><li>• Quality</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More homework</li><li>• More problems to solve</li><li>• Work far beyond the student's grade level</li><li>• An assignment that takes hours to complete</li><li>• Only doing the challenge questions</li><li>• Providing support means less rigor</li><li>• Just one more thing to do</li><li>• Quantity</li></ul> |

5. What is differentiation?

| Differentiation is:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Differentiation is not:                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tailoring instruction to meet needs of each student <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Content - what the student needs to learn or how the student will get access to the information</li> <li>○ Process - activities in which the student engages in order to make sense of or master the content</li> <li>○ Products (output of the student) - culminating projects that ask the student to rehearse, apply, and extend what he or she has learned in a unit</li> <li>○ Learning environment - the way the classroom works and feels</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Students are given multiple ways to demonstrate learning</li> <li>● For all students</li> <li>● Quality</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teaching a lesson 10 different ways</li> <li>● Separate from what the class is learning</li> <li>● Watered-down expectations</li> </ul> |

**6. What are the reading requirements outside of school for each grade level?**

Students must read a broad variety of quality texts to develop proficiency in, and derive pleasure from, the act of reading. Reading technical materials, moreover, are critical life skills. Participation in society—filling out forms, voting, understanding the daily newspaper— requires solid reading competencies.

Each grade level is required to read outside of school and reading minutes are part of the nightly homework assignments (15-20 minutes a night). Our Kindergarten students take home books to be read by a member of the household whereas older students engage in independent reading. Some teachers might require parents initial or sign off on this daily reading assignment. The reading expectations are shared during Back to School Night or what is now called Family Information

Night. Reading requirements are not measured in total number of books read, but rather in time to read each day.

The state provides a recommended list of literature for children at all grade levels. Information can be found at this [website](#).

## **7. What are the homework requirements for each grade level?**

The Board recognizes that good study skills and diligence in the accomplishment of work assignments are essential to success by students in school. To this end, students will be required to fulfill assignments and may be required to do school work at home. In assigning homework, school personnel shall take into consideration the ability and maturity of the students involved. Teachers assign homework based on how long they believe it might take, but no two children are alike. If the amount of homework is a struggle or burden for your child(ren), then communicating this to the teacher is important. Homework assignments shall be planned with definite objectives for the students and align to classroom instruction. The teachers and staff at Las Lomitas are committed to raising our students' level of literacy. We value the time children spend reading and the time families read with/to children. Our board policy has set the following guidelines for homework:

- TK: No homework
- K-1: No more than 30 minutes per night, including reading
- 2-3: No more than 45 minutes per night, including reading
- 4-5: No more than 60 minutes per night, including reading
- 6: No more than 90 minutes per night, including reading
- 7-8: No more than 120 minutes per night, including reading

The Board of Trustees also recognizes holidays, scheduled vacation as per the school calendar, and weekends as "homework free." If your family observes a religious or cultural holiday that falls on a school day(s), please contact your child's teacher to excuse them from homework for the duration of the holiday.

In grades 6-8, homework may be assigned on Fridays or over weekends if needed to prepare for class the following week, due to the rotating schedule.

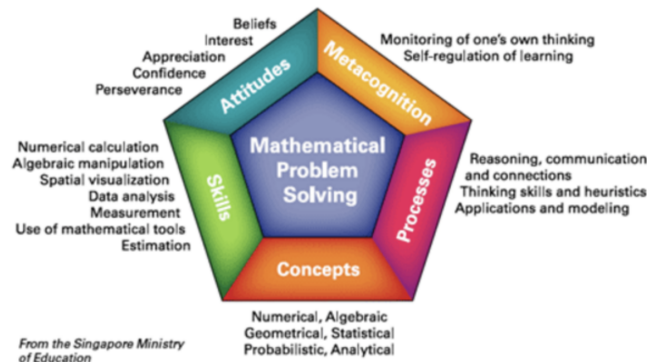
## **8. How is my teacher challenging my thriving child(ren)?**

| Grade level | Reading/Language Arts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Math                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Other Content Areas                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| K - 3       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading/Writing Workshop (multiple levels, use of rubrics and checklists from grade level above/below)</li> <li>• Open-ended and project based learning</li> <li>• Menus of activities that provide challenging activities for learners to choose from</li> <li>• Reciprocal teaching: Reciprocal teaching is a cooperative learning strategy that aims to improve students' reading comprehension skills. A group of students take turns acting as the teacher in guiding the comprehension of a text.</li> <li>• <u>Depth of knowledge</u></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math games and challenge activities</li> <li>• Math performance tasks</li> <li>• Open-ended and project based learning</li> <li>• Menus of activities that provide challenging activities for learners to choose from</li> <li>• Anchor tasks that allow students to solve problems at their own level</li> <li>• Digital curriculum (self-paced, IXL, Happy Numbers)</li> <li>• <u>Depth of knowledge</u></li> <li>• Singapore Math Framework</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-ended and project based learning</li> <li>• <u>Depth of knowledge</u></li> <li>• </li> </ul> |

| Grade level | Reading/Language Arts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Math                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Other Content Areas                                                                                                                       |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                           |
| 4 – 8       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading/Writing Workshop (multiple levels, use of rubrics and checklists from grade level above/below)</li> <li>• Open-ended and project based learning</li> <li>• <u>Depth of knowledge</u></li> <li>•</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math games and challenge activities</li> <li>• Math performance tasks</li> <li>• Anchor tasks that allow students to solve problems at their own level</li> <li>• Digital curriculum (self-paced, IXL)</li> <li>• Singapore Math Framework</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-ended and project based learning</li> <li>• <u>Depth of knowledge</u></li> <li>•</li> </ul> |
| 6 – 8       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading/Writing Workshop (multiple levels, use of rubrics and checklists from grade level above/below)</li> <li>• Open-ended and project based learning</li> <li>• <u>Depth of knowledge</u></li> </ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Math courses</li> <li>• Math games and challenge activities</li> <li>• Math performance tasks</li> <li>• Open-ended and project based learning</li> <li>• Anchor tasks that allow students to solve problems</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-ended and project based learning</li> <li>• <u>Depth of knowledge</u></li> <li>•</li> </ul> |

| Grade level | Reading/Language Arts | Math                                                                                                                                                                                 | Other Content Areas |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|             |                       | at their own level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital curriculum (self-paced, IXL)</li> <li>• <u>Depth of knowledge</u></li> <li>• Singapore Math Framework</li> </ul> |                     |

**Singapore's Mathematics Framework**



## 9. How are students at LE placed in math courses in grades 6-8?

Careful consideration for math course selection by families is encouraged. The decision to opt into an honors pathway should not be taken lightly. Students who do not choose honors are not behind in any way and are still above grade level. Students in regular and honors will be prepared for rigorous coursework in high school upper level math courses.

Once your student makes their course selection, we will cross-check it against our professional opinion to determine whether we are aligned. Should your recommendation not match ours, we will ask you to sign a waiver to indicate your understanding that you are electing to enroll your student in a course not recommended by the school.

### Math Pathways:

La Entrada's 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade math pathways include: the Algebra Pathway and the Geometry Pathway.

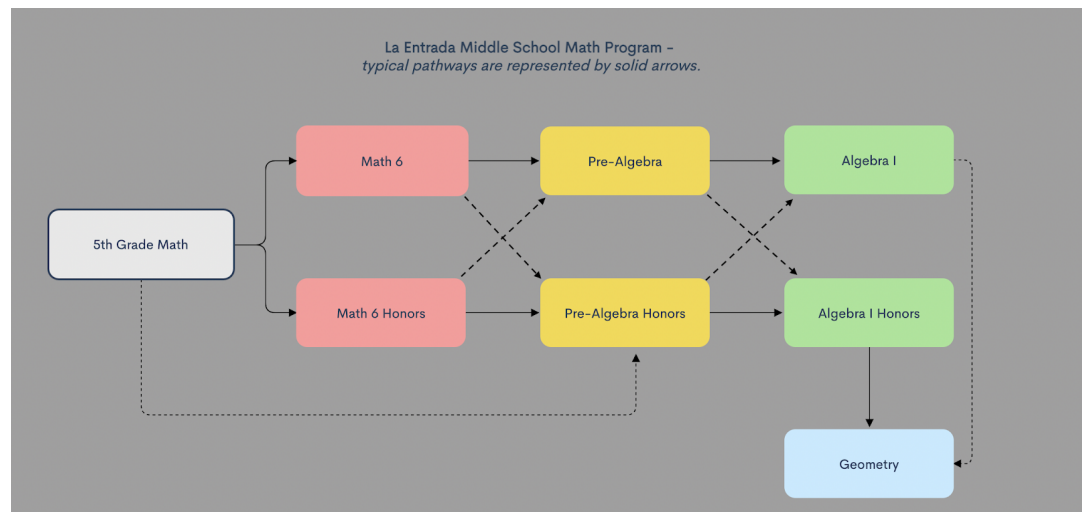
#### 1. Algebra Pathway:

The majority of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students follow this pathway. Please note that this pathway is *already* an accelerated pathway at most local schools. Students begin in *Math 6* or *Math 6 Honors* in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This pathway progresses into *Pre-Algebra* or *Pre-Algebra Honors* in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and *Algebra* or *Algebra Honors* in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### 2. Geometry Pathway:

A very small group of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who perform significantly above grade level will skip 6<sup>th</sup> grade math and be scheduled directly into a *Pre-Algebra Honors* class as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, with 7<sup>th</sup> grade classmates. Please note that students who enter this pathway will not receive instruction of 6<sup>th</sup> grade material and may have significant gaps in knowledge of 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. This pathway progresses into *Algebra Honors* in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and *Geometry* in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will then take *Algebra 2/Trig* in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, which is extremely unusual.

Please feel free to contact your student's teacher or administration if you have any questions.



7. What does the ELA program look like in the district?

Please see this [presentation](#) for more information.

8. What does the Science program look like in the district?

Please see this [presentation](#) for more information.

9. What does the New World Language program look like in the district?

Please see this [presentation](#) for more information.

10. What is the role of the School Site Council?

Please see this [presentation](#) for more information.