

Flex Math

(Continuous Progress Learning)

What is “Continuous Progress”?

Continuous progress means that students learn at their optimum rates. It is well known that students learn at different rates. In the traditional classroom the rate of learning is determined by the teacher and is geared to the average learner. Consequently, some students are bored (let's get on with it) and others feel frustrated because they need a bit more time to understand the material.

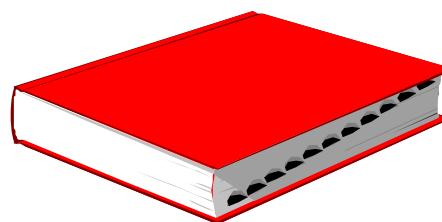
What are the Advantages of Continuous Progress?

- One of the biggest advantages is that the student does not fail. In continuous progress a test is written only when the material to be tested has been completed by the student and checked by the teacher. The test is simply a confirmation of the learning. If, for some reason, a test is done poorly (perhaps homework was copied instead of learned) the student must redo some work and re-write the test. *A student can not proceed to new material until previous work has been mastered.*
- Another major advantage is that the student becomes fully prepared for the next grade level. In the traditional system a student may pass math 9 and 10 with a bare minimum of C-. This student will have a very poor chance of successfully completing math 11 or 12.
- Continuous progress develops a sense of pride and confidence (I can do it) in learning. For some students that little bit of extra time is the difference between a B and a C-. The gifted student can complete the course early and use the extra time to either move on to the next grade level in math or work to improve grades in other courses.
- Continuous progress students become much more responsible for their own learning. By taking active control of the learning process the student develops excellent reading skills and becomes self motivated – two key factors for success at college or career.



Are There Disadvantages to Continuous Progress?

- Traditional classes are well suited to the auditory learner (learn by listening). Continuous progress put more emphasis on reading skills. **Students who are poor readers may have difficulties in a continuous progress class.**
- The classroom environment in a continuous progress program is less structured than a traditional classroom. This is because it is the student rather than the teacher that is the driving force for learning. Consequently, **those students who are easily distracted, have difficulty focussing on a task or are unmotivated may not do well in this type of atmosphere.**



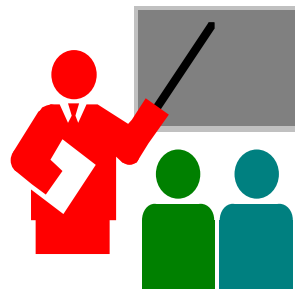
What Happens at the End of the Semester / Year?

If a student has not completed the course requirements by the end of the semester, then ideally, that student can simply continue along in another flex class in the next semester. However, due to fluctuating enrolment of our flex program this is not always possible. The student may have to work independently and see the teacher during tutorial time. It may also mean that the student is carrying a full course load in the next semester as well as completing work from the previous semester.

The same is true at the end of the year.

What is The Role of the Teacher in Continuous Progress Classes?

It may appear on the surface that teachers are no longer teaching but this far from the truth. Rather than delivering information to the class as a whole (ready or not), the teacher presents to small groups or individuals on an “as needed” basis. The teacher is more of a resource rather than a lecturer.



Course Evaluation:

Home / class work	30%	It is important that the student keep an organized record of work completed (date, page, question number etc.). This work will be checked before a test is written. Show steps leading to an answer rather than simply recording an answer. A good workbook is a valuable resource when studying for the final exam.
Tests	50 %	All tests and quizzes will be kept on file and will not be permanently returned to the student. The minimum acceptable mark on a test will be 60% (C), otherwise the test will have to be rewritten.
Final Exam	20 %	This will cover the years work.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Signature _____