



## ACCELERATED MATH FAQ

Dear Parents,

We are in full swing with the Accelerated Math (AM) program and I would like to take a moment to inform you about the program and hopefully answer any questions you might have. AM is an individualized math program for students of all abilities that meets the National Council of Teacher of Mathematics Standards. In my classroom, I have aligned the program with the Diocesan mathematics curriculum and I teach the concepts required for each particular grade level. The student data is managed by a computer software package that was purchased from Renaissance Learning. Students practice various concepts and, when ready, they test on the concepts. If they need intervention I provide it in small group and/or individualized settings. After a student has tested on a concept, the student will periodically have review questions on his/her Practice sheets so s/he will maintain competency in tested concepts.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

#### 1. Why are there different colored AM papers in my child's Friday Folder?

When students are practicing new concepts or reviewing tested ones, the papers are printed on white paper. All tests are printed on blue paper and yellow papers indicate that the child had special intervention from me or a tutor.

#### 2. What is a TOPS report?

Each assignment is scored using a scanner in the classroom. The results of the assignment are printed on a TOPS report. This report allows students to see how they performed on each assignment. It gives a percentage grade, lists the concepts that were covered, and shows incorrect responses. Most importantly, the student's cumulative averages for Practices, Tests and Reviews are noted. Student goals for each nine weeks and their accomplishments are also on the TOPS reports.

**3. Which grades are taken from the TOPS reports?**

Two grades are taken from the AM reports. I record the cumulative **Test average** and the cumulative **Review average** for grading purposes. The Practice sheets are just that – practice. **I do not count the Practice average when recording grades.** This will hopefully encourage students to take risks on material and knowing that they will not be penalized. It also helps me to see which concepts we need to emphasize during instruction.

**4. My child has set a goal in AM. What does that mean?**

Students will have the opportunity to set a goal for each nine weeks. With my guidance, the child will determine how many objectives they think they can master. Objectives can only be mastered on a test, therefore it is important that the students practice problems on the Practice sheets so they will be ready for a test.

**CALCULATORS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON TESTS.**