

Coram Deo Math Information Sheet

Curriculum Map:

Grades K-7: Singapore Math Dimensions, Levels K - 7

Grades 7-12: Prentice Hall Algebra, Geometry, Algebra & Trigonometry, Calculus

Differentiation:

One of our goals in scheduling is to allow for easy differentiation, to enable students to be grouped by ability/skill needs rather than by grade level for math.

Singapore Math

Rationale:

Singapore Math is a highly acclaimed curriculum that has proven results in math competency. However, our primary goal as a classical Christian learning center is to nurture students who love learning and are thoughtful and able to reason well. Singapore Math, we believe, is the best curriculum for moving us towards this goal.

Singapore Math focuses on fostering problem-solving skills and a thorough knowledge of mathematical concepts. It does this in three steps: first, engagement with physical objects for a concrete understanding of mathematical concepts; second, use of pictures to visually represent and interpret problems, and finally, use of abstract symbols.

Singapore Math (SM) has a reputation for being more advanced than other curriculum because it introduces concepts like multiplication and fractions earlier than most U.S.-based curriculum.

However, SM does so gradually, coming back to the same concepts each year to deepen students' knowledge and add complexity. This promotes deep understanding as well as mastery.

SM's Dimensions curriculum is well-suited to our collaborative model. Each grade level has four sets of books: a teacher's guide, a textbook, a workbook, and a test manual. There are two sets for each grade level, A and B, with one per semester. We plan for the tutors to have the teacher's manual and the test manual, with the students purchasing the textbooks and workbooks. These are affordably priced, which we love! SM also provides many digital resources for free.

Placement:

- If your student is finishing 3rd grade right now, give the 3B placement test, etc.
- SM takes a different approach to math, so the placement test may be challenging. Remember that it is not a test of what your student has learned this year — they have their current curriculum to assess that!
- Work through the placement test with your student—it may be that they DO know how to find the answer to the problem, but they are used to different wording or approach. Use your best judgement as to whether or not your student does know the content/skill.

- In Coram Deo's curriculum map, we are using SM Dimensions through 7th grade. After this, they are well prepared to begin Algebra. This means that even if your 4th grader needs to do SM Dimensions Level 3 next year, they will still have the ability to get to Calculus by the end of high school, if that's a goal that you have.
- If you've taken the placement test but aren't sure where to put them, start them at their grade level. There is flexibility for them to move to a different level, if needed, after the school year starts.
- As with any shift of curriculum where students encounter a new approach to learning, our tutors are aware of the likelihood that there may be areas of greater or lesser familiarity as we move through the year.

Prentice Hall

Placement:

- Students who have completed SM Dimensions 7 or another Pre-Algebra program will be well equipped to begin Algebra.

Action Items

- For students going into grades K-5, if you are not already confident of what Singapore Level they will be in for next school year, **administer** the placement tests. Because there are no placement tests for Singapore 6-7, please use your best judgement as to which level your student should take, remembering that level 7 is Pre-Algebra. **Email** your results to us at coramdeoclassicalbeaver@gmail.com
- The sooner this is completed, the sooner we can assess what our tutor and curriculum needs are for the upcoming school year. Placements must be communicated to us by **June 1**.