



High School Mathematics – De-mystifying the Message

Of all the subjects about which there are questions, for parents of students entering high school, mathematics seems to be the one that creates the most anxiety. Part of the confusion seems to be that, unlike other courses, Math at the -2 level in Grade 12 qualifies as university entrance. Although a student should be taking English 30-1, and a 30 level Science if he/she has plans to continue on to university, Math 30-2 is not only acceptable but, in some cases, recommended for university.

Here's what Alberta Education has to say about Math 30-1 and Math 30-2.

“Math 30-1 is intended for students who plan to enter post-secondary programs that require calculus skills, such as engineering, mathematics, sciences, and some business programs. Math 30-2 is for students wishing to study in diverse fields, including arts, engineering and medical technologies, some apprenticeship programs and nursing. This path is intended to fulfill most students' needs. It is anticipated that more students would pursue Mathematics 30-2 as it has greater acceptance than the former Applied Math program.”

It is our experience at CCH that a student who finishes Grade 11 Math with less than 70% should enrol in Math 30-2, assuming their post-secondary program does not explicitly state a need for Math 30-1. For many parents, this is a change in thinking from when they (or even older siblings) might have attended high school.

Math 30-2 is still a rigorous course; students will still qualify for university entrance and most scholarships, and will have the added advantage of likely earning a higher mark than they would in Math 30-1, which will benefit them in applying for the Rutherford Scholarship.

If you have questions about the best course of study in Math for your upcoming Grade 12 student, we encourage you to contact your child's current Grade 11 Math teacher and/or one of our counselors to ask questions and to ensure your child is set up for success in Grade 12.

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