



## Grade 2/3 - Course Outline and Expectations

RENERT SCHOOL AT ROYAL VISTA

**Lead instructor:** Vincent Chan  
**2nd instructor:** Angela Witmer

**Email:** vincent.chan@renertschool.ca  
**Email:** angela.witmer@renertschool.ca

A. *The main goal of mathematics education is to help students:*

- Build strong analytical skills
- Demonstrate flexibility and creativity of thought
- Solve problems analytically by using mathematical processes
- Communicate and reason mathematically
- Appreciate and enjoy the beauty and value of mathematics
- Develop the ability to prove, reason, and advocate a position logically and intelligently

B. *The General Outcome of this course is to continue to expand the skills developed in previous years, building strong arithmetic skills and sense of number, understanding basic geometry, and developing strong analytical minds capable of creative problem solving. The course begins with a review of some concepts covered last year, followed by exploration and achieving mastery of topics from the Alberta Primary and Elementary Math curriculum. We will recognize mathematics as the science of pattern, fostering creativity and flexibility of thought, using proper mathematical vocabulary, and laying the foundation for algebra and abstract mathematics. At Renert, we know that the only way to “do” mathematics is by understanding, not by memorization.*

C. *Required Materials*

- Brain
- At least 3 sharpened pencils, eraser
- Geometry set (ruler, protractor, compass etc.) – keep it at home, you will be told if and when you need to bring it to school

Note: All study materials (e.g. books, graph paper, handouts, etc.) will be provided to the students in class.

D. *Digital Communication*

- I have a course website at <https://vchan2.github.io/2023gr23.html> which will contain important information such as announcements, special homework, or useful links.
- During the school year, you must provide updates at least **once per week** on your book progress using this form: <https://forms.gle/GJ5u946ax1W688ck9> (link available from the course website for your convenience).

### E. Student Expectations

I expect you to:

- Treat yourself, your teachers and the subject matter with the same respect you deserve and would like to be treated with.
- Adopt a good attitude and an open mind towards the subject matter. Mathematics is the crowning jewel of human thought. It is intriguing, beautiful, fun, and exciting. It has enriched countless lives and can do the same for you. It is the most powerful of all analytical tools and will serve you for life whether you decide to be an engineer, a police officer, or a dancer. Come to class with an eager mind. Attend not only in body, but also in spirit.
- Get organized! Mathematics is a highly structured language that is written in a very particular way. Chicken scratches and messy handwriting are no longer considered acceptable. Understanding how to think mathematically is half the battle; the other half is presenting your solution in a way that makes perfect sense to another fellow human.
- Do your homework. **Homework at Renert School is not optional.** Math is not a spectator sport: you learn it by practising, solving problems and participating. It is an expectation that you complete your homework.
- Have perseverance. The only way to improve in mathematics is by doing mathematics. Failing is part of the experience; do not despair if you do not get all the right answers right away (nobody does). The best learning is by trial and error.
- Participate in class and ask questions: if you do not know something, quite a few of your friends around you struggle with it as well.
- Make good use of our homework club. You can get all the support you need outside school hours. Make friends in class and study together (physically distanced!). By helping your peers or getting them to assist you, everyone's learning is being greatly enhanced.
- Make good use of your IXL account.

Also:

- You may bring a small **plastic water bottle** with a lid to class if you need to drink a lot. If you forget it, you will not be able to get it during class.
- Your binder showcases your learning. Keeping your notes organized in your binder will also help to improve your learning.

### F. Parent Expectations

- Provide your child with a quiet environment, free of distractions (meaning no iPod, iPad, iPhone, or iAnything...) so they may concentrate when working at home.
- Support your child by **marking their work** (see *Marking Guide for Parents*) as they go. It makes a world of difference and takes minutes.
- Communicate **in real time** with your child's teacher whenever an issue arises.

I have read, understood and intend to do my utmost to meet all above expectations:

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Parent should be familiar with this list of expectations, and make sure student understands them)*