

# Diocese of Joliet: Standards for Mathematics Curriculum, Grades 5 and 6

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# *Basic Principles underlying All Standards to be used for the Planning of Curriculum for the Diocese of Joliet*

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Basic principles which inform all Catholic education in the Schools of the Diocese of Joliet are:

- **Human knowledge is a truth to be discovered.**
- All knowledge, in some way, reflects God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness.
- Curriculum and instruction enable deeper incorporation of the children into the Church, the formation of community within the school; and respect for the uniqueness and dignity of each person as created in the image of God.
- Education fosters growth in Christian virtue and contributes to development and formation of the whole person in light of his/her ultimate end and the good of the society of which he/she is a member.
- Each subject is to be examined in the context of the Catholic faith and is to be illuminated by Gospel values.
- Learning and formation occur in the Catholic school without separation as does the development of each student on both the natural and supernatural levels.
- Curriculum and instruction seeks to promote a synthesis of faith, life and culture and to form students as disciples of Jesus.



**DIOCESE OF JOLIET  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



**STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics is the study of quantity, structure, space, and change. Attention should be paid to the needs of today's society in teaching mathematics by fostering real world application, enabling students to undertake responsibilities in society both locally and globally while witnessing to the faith.

Individual subjects must be taught according to their own particular methods. It would be wrong to consider subjects as mere adjuncts to faith or as a useful means of teaching apologetics. They enable the pupil to assimilate skills, knowledge, intellectual methods and moral and social attitudes, all of which help to develop his personality and lead him to take his place as an active member of the community of man. Their aim is not merely the attainment of knowledge but the acquisition of values and the discovery of truth. *The Catholic School, 39*

**In a Catholic school, curricular formation...**

1. Involves the integral formation of the whole person, body, mind, and spirit, in light of his or her ultimate end and the good of society.<sup>i</sup>
2. Promotes human virtues and the dignity of the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God and modeled on the person of Jesus Christ.<sup>ii</sup>
3. Seeks to know and understand objective reality which includes transcendent Truth, is knowable by reason and faith, and finds its origin, unity, and end in God.
4. Develops a Catholic worldview and enables a deeper incorporation of the student into the heart of the Catholic Church.<sup>iii</sup>
5. Encourages a synthesis of faith, life, and culture.<sup>iv</sup>

## FIFTH GRADE MATHEMATICS STANDARDS

In Grade 5, instructional time should focus on three critical areas: (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing understanding of volume. Use mathematical vocabulary consistent with Diocesan expectations.

### SEE APPENDIX A: STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE

#### CATHOLIC STANDARDS:

- **Develop the mental habits of precise, determined, careful, and accurate questioning, inquiry, and reasoning. CSGS1**
- **Develop lines of inquiry (as developmentally appropriate) to understand why things are true and why they are false. CSGS2**
- **Recognize the power of the human mind as both a gift from God and a reflection of Him in whose image and likeness we are made. CSGS3**
- **Survey the truths about mathematical objects that are interesting in their own right and independent of human opinions. CSGS4**

#### OA - Operations and Algebraic Thinking

##### **Write and interpret numerical expressions.**

1. Use parentheses, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions, and evaluate expressions with these symbols.
2. Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers, and interpret numerical expressions without evaluating them. *For example, express the calculation “add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2” as  $2 \times (8 + 7)$ . Recognize that  $3 \times (18932 + 921)$  is three times as large as  $18932 + 921$ , without having to calculate the indicated sum or product.*

##### **Analyze patterns and relationships.**

3. Generate two numerical patterns using two given rules. Identify apparent relationships between corresponding terms. Form ordered pairs consisting of corresponding terms from the two patterns, and graph the ordered pairs on a coordinate plane. *For example, given the rule “Add 3” and the starting number 0, and given the rule “Add 6” and the starting number 0, generate terms in the resulting sequences, and observe that the terms in one sequence are twice the corresponding terms in the other sequence. Explain informally why this is so.*

#### NBT - Number and Operations in Base Ten

##### **Understand the place value system.**

1. Recognize that in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right and 1/10 of what it represents in the place to its left.
2. Explain patterns in the number of zeros of the product when multiplying a number by powers of 10, and explain patterns in the placement of the decimal point when a decimal is multiplied or divided by a power of 10. Use whole number exponents to denote powers of 10.
3. Read, write, and compare decimals to thousandths.
  - a. Read and write decimals to thousandths using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form, e.g.,  $347.392 = 3 \times 100 + 4 \times 10 + 7 \times 1 + 3 \times (1/10) + 9 \times (1/100) + 2 \times (1/1000)$ .

- b. Compare two decimals to thousandths based on meanings of the digits in each place, using  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$  symbols to record the results of comparisons.
4. Use place value understanding to round decimals to any place.

**Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.**

5. Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.
6. Find whole-number quotients of whole numbers with up to four-digit dividends and two-digit divisors, using strategies based on place value, the properties of operations, and/or the relationship between multiplication and division. Illustrate and explain the calculation by using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models.
7. Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals to hundredths, using concrete models or drawings and strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction; relate the strategy to a written method and explain the reasoning used.

**NF - Number and Operations – Fractions**

**Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.**

1. Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (including mixed numbers) by replacing given fractions with equivalent fractions in such a way as to produce an equivalent sum or difference of fractions with like denominators. *For example,  $2/3 + 5/4 = 8/12 + 15/12 = 23/12$ . (In general,  $a/b + c/d = (ad + bc)/bd$ .)*
2. Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions referring to the same whole, including cases of unlike denominators, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem. Use benchmark fractions and number sense of fractions to estimate mentally and assess the reasonableness of answers. *For example, recognize an incorrect result  $2/5 + 1/2 = 3/7$  by observing that  $3/7 < 1/2$ .*

**Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.**

3. Interpret a fraction as division of the numerator by the denominator ( $a/b = a \div b$ ). Solve word problems involving division of whole numbers leading to answers in the form of fractions or mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem. *For example, interpret  $3/4$  as the result of dividing 3 by 4, noting that  $3/4$  multiplied by 4 equals 3 and that when 3 wholes are shared equally among 4 people each person has a share of size  $3/4$ . If 9 people want to share a 50-pound sack of rice equally by weight, how many pounds of rice should each person get? Between what two whole numbers does your answer lie?*
4. Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction or whole number by a fraction.
  - a. Interpret the product  $(a/b) \times q$  as a parts of a partition of  $q$  into  $b$  equal parts; equivalently, as the result of a sequence of operations  $a \times q \div b$ . *For example, use a visual fraction model to show  $(2/3) \times 4 = 8/3$ , and create a story context for this equation. Do the same with  $(2/3) \times (4/5) = 8/15$ . (In general,  $(a/b) \times (c/d) = ac/bd$ .)*
  - b. Find the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths by tiling it with unit squares of the appropriate unit fraction side lengths, and show that the area is the same as would be found by multiplying the side lengths. Multiply fractional side lengths to find areas of rectangles, and represent fraction products as rectangular areas.
5. Interpret multiplication as scaling (resizing) by:
  - a. Comparing the size of a product to the size of one factor on the basis of the size of the other factor, without performing the indicated multiplication.

- b. Explaining why multiplying a given number by a fraction greater than 1 results in a product greater than the given number (recognizing multiplication by whole numbers greater than 1 as a familiar case); explaining why multiplying a given number by a fraction less than 1 results in a product smaller than the given number; and relating the principle of fraction equivalence  $a/b = (n \times a) / (n \times b)$  to the effect of multiplying  $a/b$  by 1.
6. Solve real world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.
7. Apply and extend previous understandings of division to divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions. (Students able to multiply fractions in general can develop strategies to divide fractions in general, by reasoning about the relationship between multiplication and division. But division of a fraction by a fraction is not a requirement at this grade.)
  - a. Interpret division of a unit fraction by a non-zero whole number, and compute such quotients. *For example, create a story context for  $(1/3) \div 4$  and use a visual fraction model to show the quotient. Use the relationship between multiplication and division to explain that  $(1/3) \div 4 = 1/12$  because  $(1/12) \times 4 = 1/3$ .*
  - b. Interpret division of a whole number by a unit fraction, and compute such quotients. *For example, create a story context for  $4 \div (1/5)$  and use a visual fraction model to show the quotient. Use the relationship between multiplication and division to explain that  $4 \div (1/5) = 20$  because  $20 \times (1/5) = 4$ .*
  - c. Solve real-world problems involving division of unit fractions by non-zero whole numbers and division of whole numbers by unit fractions, e.g., by using visual fraction models and equations to represent the problem. *For example, how much chocolate will each person get if 3 people share  $1/2$  lb of chocolate equally? How many  $1/3$ -cup servings are in 2 cups of raisins?*

## **MD - Measurement and Data**

### **Convert like measurement units within a given measurement system.**

1. Convert among different-sized standard measurement units within a given measurement system (e.g., convert 5 cm to 0.05 m), and use these conversions in solving multi-step real world problems.

### **Represent and interpret data.**

2. Make a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit ( $1/2, 1/4, 1/8$ ). Use operations on fractions for this grade to solve problems involving information presented in line plots. *For example, given different measurements of liquid in identical beakers, find the amount of liquid each beaker would contain if the total amount in all the beakers were redistributed equally.*

### **Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.**

3. Recognize volume as an attribute of solid figures and understand concepts of volume measurement.
  - a. A cube with side length 1 unit, called a “unit cube,” is said to have “one cubic unit” of volume, and can be used to measure volume.
  - b. A solid figure which can be packed without gaps or overlaps using  $n$  unit cubes is said to have a volume of  $n$  cubic units.
4. Measure volumes by counting unit cubes, using cubic cm, cubic in, cubic ft, and improvised units.
5. Relate volume to the operations of multiplication and addition and solve real world and mathematical problems involving volume.
  - a. Find the volume of a right rectangular prism with whole-number side lengths by packing it with unit cubes, and show that the volume is the same as would be found by multiplying the edge lengths, equivalently by multiplying the height by the area of the base. Represent three-fold whole-number products as volumes, e.g., to represent the associative property of multiplication.

- b. Apply the formulas  $V = (l)(w)(h)$  and  $V = (b)(h)$  for rectangular prisms to find volumes of right rectangular prisms with whole-number edge lengths in the context of solving real world and mathematical problems.
- c. Recognize volume as additive. Find volumes of solid figures composed of two non-overlapping right rectangular prisms by adding the volumes of the non-overlapping parts, applying this technique to solve real world problems.

## **G - Geometry**

### **Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems.**

1. Use a pair of perpendicular number lines, called axes, to define a coordinate system, with the intersection of the lines (the origin) arranged to coincide with the 0 on each line and a given point in the plane located by using an ordered pair of numbers, called its coordinates. Understand that the first number indicates how far to travel from the origin in the direction of one axis, and the second number indicates how far to travel in the direction of the second axis, with the convention that the names of the two axes and the coordinates correspond (e.g., x-axis and x-coordinate, y-axis and y-coordinate).
2. Represent real world and mathematical problems by graphing points in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane, and interpret coordinate values of points in the context of the situation.

### **Classify two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.**

3. Understand that attributes belonging to a category of two-dimensional figures also belong to all subcategories of that category. *For example, all rectangles have four right angles and squares are rectangles, so all squares have four right angles.*
4. Classify two-dimensional figures in a hierarchy based on properties.

## SIXTH GRADE MATHEMATICS STANDARDS

In Grade 6, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ration and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ration and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations, and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Use mathematical vocabulary consistent with Diocesan expectations.

### SEE APPENDIX A: STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE

#### CATHOLIC STANDARDS:

- **Develop the mental habits of precise, determined, careful, and accurate questioning, inquiry, and reasoning. CSGS1**
- **Develop lines of inquiry (as developmentally appropriate) to understand why things are true and why they are false. CSGS2**
- **Recognize the power of the human mind as both a gift from God and a reflection of Him in whose image and likeness we are made. CSGS3**
- **Survey the truths about mathematical objects that are interesting in their own right and independent of human opinions. CSGS4**

#### RP - Ratio and Proportional Relationships

##### **Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.**

1. Understand the concept of a ratio and use ratio language to describe a ratio relationship between two quantities. *For example, "The ratio of wings to beaks in the bird house at the zoo was 2:1, because for every 2 wings there was 1 beak." "For every vote candidate A received, candidate C received nearly three votes."*
2. Understand the concept of a unit rate  $a/b$  associated with a ratio  $a:b$  with  $b \neq 0$  ( $b$  not equal to zero), and use rate language in the context of a ratio relationship. *For example, "This recipe has a ratio of 3 cups of flour to 4 cups of sugar, so there is  $3/4$  cup of flour for each cup of sugar." "We paid \$75 for 15 hamburgers, which is a rate of \$5 per hamburger." (Expectations for unit rates in this grade are limited to non-complex fractions.)*
3. Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real-world and mathematical problems, e.g., by reasoning about tables of equivalent ratios, tape diagrams, double number line diagrams, or equations.
  - a. Make tables of equivalent ratios relating quantities with whole-number measurements, find missing values in the tables, and plot the pairs of values on the coordinate plane. Use tables to compare ratios.
  - b. Solve unit rate problems including those involving unit pricing and constant speed. *For example, if it took 7 hours to mow 4 lawns, then at that rate, how many lawns could be mowed in 35 hours? At what rate were lawns being mowed?*
  - c. Find a percent of a quantity as a rate per 100 (e.g., 30% of a quantity means  $30/100$  times the quantity); solve problems involving finding the whole given a part and the percent.
  - d. Use ratio reasoning to convert measurement units; manipulate and transform units appropriately when multiplying or dividing quantities.

#### NS - The Number System

##### **Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.**

1. Interpret and compute quotients of fractions, and solve word problems involving division of fractions by fractions, e.g., by using visual fraction models and equations to represent the problem. *For example, create a story context for  $(2/3) \div (3/4)$  and use a visual fraction model to show the*

quotient; use the relationship between multiplication and division to explain that  $(2/3) \div (3/4) = 8/9$  because  $3/4$  of  $8/9$  is  $2/3$ . (In general,  $(a/b) \div (c/d) = ad/bc$ .) How much chocolate will each person get if 3 people share  $1/2$  lb of chocolate equally? How many  $3/4$ -cup servings are in  $2/3$  of a cup of yogurt? How wide is a rectangular strip of land with length  $3/4$  mi and area  $1/2$  square mi?

**Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.**

2. Fluently divide multi-digit numbers using the standard algorithm.
3. Fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit decimals using the standard algorithm for each operation.
4. Find the greatest common factor of two whole numbers less than or equal to 100 and the least common multiple of two whole numbers less than or equal to 12. Use the distributive property to express a sum of two whole numbers 1–100 with a common factor as a multiple of a sum of two whole numbers with no common factor. *For example, express  $36 + 8$  as  $4(9 + 2)$ .*

**Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.**

5. Understand that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities having opposite directions or values (e.g., temperature above/below zero, elevation above/below sea level, debits/credits, positive/negative electric charge); use positive and negative numbers to represent quantities in real-world contexts, explaining the meaning of 0 in each situation.
6. Understand a rational number as a point on the number line. Extend number line diagrams and coordinate axes familiar from previous grades to represent points on the line and in the plane with negative number coordinates.
  - a. Recognize opposite signs of numbers as indicating locations on opposite sides of 0 on the number line; recognize that the opposite of the opposite of a number is the number itself, e.g.,  $-(-3) = 3$ , and that 0 is its own opposite.
  - b. Understand signs of numbers in ordered pairs as indicating locations in quadrants of the coordinate plane; recognize that when two ordered pairs differ only by signs, the locations of the points are related by reflections across one or both axes.
  - c. Find and position integers and other rational numbers on a horizontal or vertical number line diagram; find and position pairs of integers and other rational numbers on a coordinate plane.
7. Understand ordering and absolute value of rational numbers.
  - a. Interpret statements of inequality as statements about the relative position of two numbers on a number line diagram. *For example, interpret  $-3 > -7$  as a statement that  $-3$  is located to the right of  $-7$  on a number line oriented from left to right.*
  - b. Write, interpret, and explain statements of order for rational numbers in real-world contexts. *For example, write  $-3^{\circ}\text{C} > -7^{\circ}\text{C}$  to express the fact that  $-3^{\circ}\text{C}$  is warmer than  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$ .*
  - c. Understand the absolute value of a rational number as its distance from 0 on the number line; interpret absolute value as magnitude for a positive or negative quantity in a real-world situation. *For example, for an account balance of  $-30$  dollars, write  $|-30| = 30$  to describe the size of the debt in dollars.*
  - d. Distinguish comparisons of absolute value from statements about order. *For example, recognize that an account balance less than  $-30$  dollars represents a debt greater than 30 dollars.*
8. Solve real-world and mathematical problems by graphing points in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane. Include use of coordinates and absolute value to find distances between points with the same first coordinate or the same second coordinate.

**EE - Expressions and Equations**

**Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.**

1. Write and evaluate numerical expressions involving whole-number exponents.
2. Write, read, and evaluate expressions in which letters stand for numbers.
  - a. Write expressions that record operations with numbers and with letters standing for numbers. *For example, express the calculation "Subtract  $y$  from 5" as  $5 - y$ .*
  - b. Identify parts of an expression using mathematical terms (sum, term, product, factor, quotient, coefficient); view one or more parts of an expression as a single entity. *For example, describe the expression  $2(8 + 7)$  as a product of two factors; view  $(8 + 7)$  as both a single entity and a sum of two terms.*
  - c. Evaluate expressions at specific values for their variables. Include expressions that arise from formulas in real-world problems. Perform arithmetic operations, including those involving whole-number exponents, in the conventional order when there are no parentheses to specify a particular order (Order of Operations). *For example, use the formulas  $V = s^3$  and  $A = 6s^2$  to find the volume and surface area of a cube with sides of length  $s = 1/2$ .*
3. Apply the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions. *For example, apply the distributive property to the expression  $3(2 + x)$  to produce the equivalent expression  $6 + 3x$ ; apply the distributive property to the expression  $24x + 18y$  to produce the equivalent expression  $6(4x + 3y)$ ; apply properties of operations to  $y + y + y$  to produce the equivalent expression  $3y$ .*
4. Identify when two expressions are equivalent (i.e., when the two expressions name the same number regardless of which value is substituted into them). *For example, the expressions  $y + y + y$  and  $3y$  are equivalent because they name the same number regardless of which number  $y$  stands for.*

**Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.**

5. Understand solving an equation or inequality as a process of answering a question: which values from a specified set, if any, make the equation or inequality true? Use substitution to determine whether a given number in a specified set makes an equation or inequality true.
6. Use variables to represent numbers and write expressions when solving a real-world or mathematical problem; understand that a variable can represent an unknown number, or, depending on the purpose at hand, any number in a specified set.
7. Solve real-world and mathematical problems by writing and solving equations of the form  $x + p = q$  and  $px = q$  for cases in which  $p$ ,  $q$  and  $x$  are all nonnegative rational numbers.
8. Write an inequality of the form  $x > c$  or  $x < c$  to represent a constraint or condition in a real-world or mathematical problem. Recognize that inequalities of the form  $x > c$  or  $x < c$  have infinitely many solutions; represent solutions of such inequalities on number line diagrams.

**Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.**

9. Use variables to represent two quantities in a real-world problem that change in relationship to one another; write an equation to express one quantity, thought of as the dependent variable, in terms of the other quantity, thought of as the independent variable. Analyze the relationship between the dependent and independent variables using graphs and tables, and relate these to the equation. *For example, in a problem involving motion at constant speed, list and graph ordered pairs of distances and times, and write the equation  $d = 65t$  to represent the relationship between distance and time.*

**G - Geometry**

**Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.**

1. Find area of right triangles, other triangles, special quadrilaterals, and polygons by composing into rectangles or decomposing into triangles and other shapes; apply these techniques in the context of solving real-world and mathematical problems.
2. Find the volume of a right rectangular prism with fractional edge lengths by packing it with unit cubes of the appropriate unit fraction edge lengths, and show that the volume is the same as would be found by multiplying the edge lengths of the prism. Apply the formulas  $V = l w h$  and  $V = b h$  to find volumes of right rectangular prisms with fractional edge lengths in the context of solving real-world and mathematical problems.
3. Draw polygons in the coordinate plane given coordinates for the vertices; use coordinates to find the length of a side joining points with the same first coordinate or the same second coordinate. Apply these techniques in the context of solving real-world and mathematical problems.
4. Represent three-dimensional figures using nets made up of rectangles and triangles, and use the nets to find the surface area of these figures. Apply these techniques in the context of solving real-world and mathematical problems.

### **SP - Statistics and Probability**

#### **Develop understanding of statistical variability.**

1. Recognize a statistical question as one that anticipates variability in the data related to the question and accounts for it in the answers. *For example, "How old am I?" is not a statistical question, but "How old are the students in my school?" is a statistical question because one anticipates variability in students' ages.*
2. Understand that a set of data collected to answer a statistical question has a distribution which can be described by its center, spread, and overall shape.
3. Recognize that a measure of center for a numerical data set summarizes all of its values with a single number, while a measure of variation describes how its values vary with a single number.

#### **Summarize and describe distributions.**

4. Display numerical data in plots on a number line, including dot plots, histograms, and box plots.
5. Summarize numerical data sets in relation to their context, such as by:
  - a. Reporting the number of observations.
  - b. Describing the nature of the attribute under investigation, including how it was measured and its units of measurement.
  - c. Giving quantitative measures of center (median and/or mean) and variability (interquartile range and/or mean absolute deviation), as well as describing any overall pattern and any striking deviations from the overall pattern with reference to the context in which the data was gathered.
  - d. Relating the choice of measures of center and variability to the shape of the data distribution and the context in which the data was gathered.

## APPENDIX A: STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICES AND CATHOLIC STANDARDS DISPOSITIONS

### STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICES AND CATHOLIC DISPOSITIONS

The Standards for Mathematical Practices and Dispositions describe varieties of expertise that mathematics educators at all levels should seek to develop in their students. [Students develop an understanding of the ability of the human intellect to know and the desire of the will to want to know more \(CSDS9\)](#). [As students progress in their mathematical knowledge, they will evaluate the ongoing nature of mathematical inquiry, its inexhaustibility, and its opening to the infinite \(CSIS6\)](#). These practices rest on important “processes and proficiencies” with longstanding importance in mathematics education. The first of these are the NCTM process standards of problem solving, reasoning and proof, communication, representation, and connections. The second are the strands of mathematical proficiency specified in the National Research Council’s report *Adding It Up*: adaptive reasoning, strategic competence, conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and productive disposition.

#### **1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**

[CSDS3: Show interest in the pursuit of understanding for its own sake.](#)

[CSDS4: Exhibit joy at solving difficult mathematical problems and operations.](#)

Students Mathematically proficient students start by explaining to themselves the meaning of a problem and looking for entry points to its solution. They analyze givens, constraints, relationships, and goals. They make conjectures about the form and meaning of the solution and plan a solution pathway rather than simply jumping into a solution attempt. They consider analogous problems, and try special cases and simpler forms of the original problem in order to gain insight into its solution. They monitor and evaluate their progress and change course if necessary. Older students might, depending on the context of the problem, transform algebraic expressions or change the viewing window on their graphing calculator to get the information they need. Mathematically proficient students can explain correspondences between equations, verbal descriptions, tables, and graphs or draw diagrams of important features and relationships, graph data, and search for regularity or trends. Younger students might rely on using concrete objects or pictures to help conceptualize and solve a problem. Mathematically proficient students check their answers to problems using a different method, and they continually ask themselves, “Does this make sense?” They can understand the approaches of others to solving complex problems and identify correspondences between different approaches.

#### **2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.**

[CSDS8: Exhibit humility at knowing that as a human being, man can only grasp a portion of the truths of the universe \(Grades 7 & 8\).](#)

Mathematically proficient students make sense of the quantities and their relationships in problem situations. Students bring two complementary abilities to bear on problems involving quantitative relationships: the ability to decontextualize—to abstract a given situation and represent it symbolically and manipulate the representing symbols as if they have a life of their own, without necessarily attending to their referents—and the ability to contextualize, to pause as needed during the manipulation process in order to probe into the referents for the symbols involved. Quantitative reasoning entails habits of creating a coherent representation of the problem at hand; considering the units involved; attending to the meaning of quantities, not just how to compute them; and knowing and flexibly using different properties of operations and objects.

### **3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.**

CSDS5: Demonstrate an interest of the mental processes within mathematics (order, perseverance, and logical reasoning) and how these processes help develop natural virtues (self-discipline and fortitude).

CSIS2: Demonstrate how sound logical arguments are foundational to mathematics.

CSDS6: Propose how mathematical objects or relationships (such as the golden mean, the Fibonacci numbers, the musical scale, geometric proofs) suggest divine origin (Grades 7 & 8).

Mathematically proficient students understand and use stated assumptions, definitions, and previously established results in constructing arguments. They make conjectures and build a logical progression of statements to explore the truth of their conjectures. They are able to analyze situations by breaking them into cases, and can recognize and use counterexamples. They justify their conclusions, communicate them to others, and respond to the arguments of others. They reason inductively about data, making plausible arguments that take into account the context from which the data arose. Mathematically proficient students are also able to compare the effectiveness of two plausible arguments, distinguish correct logic or reasoning from that which is flawed, and—if there is a flaw in an argument—explain what it is. Elementary students can construct arguments using concrete referents such as objects, drawings, diagrams, and actions. Such arguments can make sense and be correct, even though they are not generalized or made formal until later grades. Later, students learn to determine domains to which an argument applies. Students at all grades can listen or read the arguments of others, decide whether they make sense, and ask useful questions to clarify or improve the arguments.

### **4. Model with mathematics.**

Mathematically proficient students can apply the mathematics they know to solve problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace. In early grades, this might be as simple as writing an addition equation to describe a situation. In middle grades, a student might apply proportional reasoning to plan a school event or analyze a problem in the community. By high school, a student might use geometry to solve a design problem or use a function to describe how one quantity of interest depends on another. Mathematically proficient students who can apply what they know are comfortable making assumptions and approximations to simplify a complicated situation, realizing that these may need revision later. They are able to identify important quantities in a practical situation and map their relationships using such tools as diagrams, two-way tables, graphs, flowcharts and formulas. They can analyze those relationships mathematically to draw conclusions. They routinely interpret their mathematical results in the context of the situation and reflect on whether the results make sense, possibly improving the model if it has not served its purpose.

### **5. Use appropriate tools strategically.**

Mathematically proficient students consider the available tools when solving a mathematical problem. These tools might include pencil and paper, concrete models, a ruler, a protractor, a calculator, a spreadsheet, a computer algebra system, a statistical package, or dynamic geometry software. Proficient students are sufficiently familiar with tools appropriate for their grade or course to make sound decisions about when each of these tools might be helpful, recognizing both the insight to be gained and their limitations. For example, mathematically proficient high school students analyze graphs of functions and solutions generated using a graphing calculator. They detect possible errors by strategically using estimation and other mathematical knowledge. When making mathematical models, they know that technology can enable them to visualize the results of varying

assumptions, explore consequences, and compare predictions with data. Mathematically proficient students at various grade levels are able to identify relevant external mathematical resources, such as digital content located on a website, and use them to pose or solve problems. They are able to use technological tools to explore and deepen their understanding of concepts.

## **6. Attend to precision.**

**CSDS5:** Demonstrate an interest of the mental processes within mathematics (order, perseverance, and logical reasoning) and how these processes help develop natural virtues (self-discipline and fortitude).

Mathematically proficient students try to communicate precisely to others. They try to use clear definitions in discussion with others and in their own reasoning. They state the meaning of the symbols they choose, including using the equal sign consistently and appropriately. They are careful about specifying units of measure, and labeling axes to clarify the correspondence with quantities in a problem. They calculate accurately and efficiently, express numerical answers with a degree of precision appropriate for the problem context. In the elementary grades, students give carefully formulated explanations to each other. By the time they reach high school they have learned to examine claims and make explicit use of definitions.

## **7. Look for and make use of structure.**

**CSDS1:** Display a sense of wonder about mathematical relationships as well as confidence in mathematical certitude.

**CSDS2:** Respond to the beauty, harmony, proportion, radiance, and wholeness present in mathematics.

Mathematically proficient students look closely to discern a pattern or structure. Young students, for example, might notice that three and seven more is the same amount as seven and three more, or they may sort a collection of shapes according to how many sides the shapes have. Later, students will see  $7 \times 8$  equals the well-remembered  $7 \times 5 + 7 \times 3$ , in preparation for learning about the distributive property. In the expression  $x^2 + 9x + 14$ , older students can see the 14 as  $2 \times 7$  and the 9 as  $2 + 7$ . They recognize the significance of an existing line in a geometric figure and can use the strategy of drawing an auxiliary line for solving problems. They also can step back for an overview and shift perspective. They can see complicated things, such as some algebraic expressions, as single objects or as being composed of several objects. For example, they can see  $5 - 3(x - y)^2$  as 5 minus a positive number times a square and use that to realize that its value cannot be more than 5 for any real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ .

## **8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.**

Mathematically proficient students notice if calculations are repeated, and look both for general methods and for shortcuts. Upper elementary students might notice when dividing 25 by 11 that they are repeating the same calculations over and over again, and conclude they have a repeating decimal. By paying attention to the calculation of slope as they repeatedly check whether points are on the line through (1, 2) with slope 3, middle school students might abstract the equation  $(y - 2)/(x - 1) = 3$ . Noticing the regularity in the way terms cancel when expanding  $(x - 1)(x + 1)$ ,  $(x - 1)(x^2 + x + 1)$ , and  $(x - 1)(x^3 + x^2 + x + 1)$  might lead them to the general formula for the sum of a geometric series. As they work to solve a problem, mathematically proficient students maintain oversight of the process, while attending to the details. They continually evaluate the reasonableness of their intermediate results.

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- <sup>i</sup> *The Catholic School*, 1977, #36, 47, 49. *Gravissimum Educationis*, 1965, #1, par. 1; USCCB. *Seven themes of Catholic social teaching*.
- <sup>ii</sup> *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, 1988, #52, 56; *The Catholic School*, 1977, #55.
- <sup>iii</sup> *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, 1988, #71, 74-77; *The Catholic School*, 1977, #50
- <sup>iv</sup> *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School*, 1988, #52; *The Catholic School*, #37.