



December 14, 2018

Dear Parents,

During the community consultation process organized by the Fort Vermilion School Division last year, it was evident from the feedback received from all stakeholders that numeracy needs to be a priority. Parents, in particular, were concerned about their children's basic math skills at all grade levels.

As a division, we want to communicate to parents that we have heard your concerns and have looked at our results. A plan has been developed to address these concerns going forward. The plan involves a focus on improving basic facts skills, mental math strategies and change in the mindset around math. Before we see improvement in our students' math skills and knowledge, we need to change our mindset about math. First and foremost, we need to all believe that all students can do math. To make this statement true, we need to stop highlighting processing speed as a key indicator of success in math. There is more to math than computing numbers quickly. We need to realize good math students have basic math fact knowledge, problem-solving skills and have creative solutions to real-life problems. With this in mind, we can help our students regain their confidence. We need to understand that math knowledge and skills are built through a linear and cumulative process. What this means is teachers need to reteach the basics even if the students are in high school because some students lack the foundations of basic skills. It is difficult to move forward into the higher grades without these skills.

I'm excited to work with all division stakeholders in improving math skills for our students. Together we can make a difference and have students confident in their math abilities and achieve in their math coursework.

Sincerely,

*Terry Gibson*

Terry Gibson  
Supervisor of Learning Services - Numeracy

**FORT VERMILION SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 52**  
***"Our Children, Our Students, Our Future"***

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