

TO: Linden USD Board of Trustees
FROM: Leon Kuhn, Linden High School Math Teacher
RE: Common Core Math Pathways
DATE: December 12, 2013

What is Integrated Math I, II, III?

Common Core Math standards have been arranged in two different pathways; Traditional and Integrated. Both pathways have the exact same standards by the end of the three years. However, the standards have been arranged differently in each of the years. Integrated Math courses emphasize the teaching of mathematics as problem solving, communication, and reasoning that emphasize the connections among mathematical topics and between mathematics and other disciplines. The multi-year sequence of Integrated Math replaces the traditional Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II sequence of courses in the high school track. Instead, the integrated method will include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II standards in each course.

Why Integrated Math I, II, III?

The California Common Core State Standards are designed to be robust, linked within and across grades, and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that young people will need for success in college and careers. An integrated pathway allows students not only to continue to systematically build proficiency in each domain (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) each year, but also helps students see the connections and interrelationships between these three domains of mathematics and real world applications. For many years, studies have shown that American students score significantly lower than students worldwide in mathematics achievement. These countries that are scoring higher are using an integrated pathway.

What was the process in choosing Integrated Math I, II, III?

Members of the Linden High School Math Department and Linden Unified School District administration attended workshops to gather information about California Common Core State Standards: Mathematics. Research was done to find out which direction surrounding school districts were going in regards to integrated or traditional math. Several meetings were held to discuss the best direction to take for the students of Linden Unified School District

Is Integrated Math I, II, III UC approved?

Three years (four years recommended) of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. This includes Integrated Math I, Integrated Math II and Integrated Math III.

What courses are we considering for our incoming freshman next year (2014-2015)?

1. Geometry: Incoming freshman that earn an A or B in Algebra I. These students will remain on a traditional pathway or have the option of Integrated I.
2. Integrated Math I: Incoming freshman that earn a D or above in Algebra I.
3. Integrated Math IA: Incoming freshman that earn a D or F in Algebra I. Integrated Math IA is the first semester of Integrated Math I covered in one year. Students that successfully complete Integrated Math 1A would then take Integrated Math IB for their second year of math credit.