

Department Goals

The mathematics curriculum outlined in this handbook is based on the Expected School-Wide Learning Results (ESLR's) for Jesuit High school. The five ESLR's are the basic learning outcomes expected for each student upon graduation from Jesuit High School. These include being open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice. The development of each of these qualities is spread throughout the entire curriculum of Jesuit High School. Each of these outcomes is addressed within the mathematics curriculum of Jesuit High School, with particular emphasis on openness to growth and intellectual competence.

Open to Growth: In order to learn mathematics, students must be willing to make and learn from mistakes. Students must also be willing to share ideas that may or may not lead to a satisfactory solution to mathematical problems. The math curriculum and faculty of Jesuit High School foster an environment in which such exchanges take place in a supportive and encouraging manner.

Intellectually Competent: The mathematics curriculum of Jesuit High School is designed to ensure that students master, and potentially exceed, the fundamental skills of mathematics and technology required for college entrance. Critical thinking is emphasized in all math courses at Jesuit; students are required to explain and annotate the processes they use to understand and solve mathematical problems. Class discussions and written assessments help develop oral and written skills in an organized and logical manner.

Religious/Loving: A loving environment is encouraged in all math classes at Jesuit High School. The main component of this is respect for all in the classroom. This respect is shown by requiring the use of positive, appropriate language; by encouraging students to share their ideas and opinions; and by noting the value in each student's viewpoint. Such treatment of others is, to a great extent, the foundation of Christian faith and clearly reinforces the teachings of the Church.

Committed to Doing Justice: Special projects are often assigned to math students at Jesuit that require the application of mathematics to daily life. In some cases, these projects may focus on social justice issues such as poverty, the spread of disease epidemics, or hate crimes. While such projects present ample opportunity for mathematical analysis and interpretation, they also reinforce the ability and desire of students to identify sources of injustice in business practices, social institutions, attitudes, and customs.