



Math Placement

At the beginning of the school year, students are initially placed in the math level that corresponds to their grade level (for students new to Helios) or in the level that was one higher than their level from the previous school year (for returning students).

The first few weeks of math are then spent assessing students to find out if this is the correct level for them. Activities include looking at if they have mastery of the skills in the previous level, or higher levels. Students are challenged with increasingly difficult problems until they can no longer answer questions correctly.

Students are then adjusted to the correct math level. Occasionally students will be moved up or down a level, but they are not usually moved to a level that is below their grade. Math placements are generally stable for the remainder of the school year, with few exceptions.



Literacy Placement

Literacy groups are initially formed at the beginning of the school year, but are adjusted 2-3 times during the year. Literacy groups are formed based on several factors including:

- MAP scores
- Grouping students with specific literacy needs together
- Lexile level of the books chosen
- Equal groupings of students in groups (number of students per group, balanced groups of boys and girls, and balanced groups of 3rd and 4th graders)
- Students' ranked preferences of the available books



Essential Skills

By the start of 3rd grade, in literacy, students should have strong phonetic awareness, and have mastered all of the 1st and 2nd grade skills on the literacy continuum.

Students should feel challenged in both math and literacy, but not overwhelmed with the topics covered.



How We Prepare Students

Placement in the correct literacy group helps students build literacy skills as well as communication and executive function skills needed for middle school.

Placement in the correct math level helps students feel challenged and confident. We want students to gain a deep understanding of math concepts at their level, which helps them solve difficult problems in higher math levels.

EVERY DAY
IS A GOOD
DAY TO
LEARN.



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