



## Grade 4/5 - Course Outline and Expectations

RENERT SCHOOL AT ROYAL VISTA

**Lead instructor:** Vincent Chan

**Email:** [vincent.chan@renertschool.ca](mailto:vincent.chan@renertschool.ca)

*A. The main goal of mathematics education is to help students:*

- Build strong analytical skills
- Demonstrate flexibility and creativity of thought
- Solve problems analytically by using mathematical processes
- Communicate and reason mathematically
- Appreciate and enjoy the beauty and value mathematics
- Develop the ability to prove, reason, and advocate a position logically and intelligently

*B. General outcome of this course is to continue to expand the skills developed in previous math courses. Students will continue to build their mental math skills and continue to progress through the Alberta Elementary and Junior High curricula. All topics are introduced in a way that fosters complete understanding of underlying concepts, as well as mastery of all related proofs and definitions. At Renert we “do” mathematics by understanding where things come from, and not by memorization.*

*C. Required Materials*

- Brain
- At least 3 sharpened pencils, eraser
- Geometry set (ruler, protractor, compass etc.) – keep it at home, you will be told when you need to bring it to school

Note: All study materials (e.g. books, graph paper, handouts, etc.) will be provided to the students in class.

*D. Digital Communication*

- I have a course website at <https://vchan2.github.io/2022gr45.html> which will contain important information in an easy-to-navigate format.
- During the school year, you must provide updates at least **once per week** on your book progress using this form: <https://forms.gle/TY1dej4kVh353kiN9> (link available from the course website for your convenience). This form can also be used to report any current challenges you are facing in your work.

### *E. Student Expectations*

I expect you to:

- Treat yourself, myself, and the subject matter with the same respect you deserve and would like to be treated with.
- Adopt a good attitude and an open mind towards the subject matter. Mathematics is the crowning jewel of human thought. It is intriguing, beautiful, fun, and exciting. It has enriched countless lives and can do the same for you. It is the most powerful of all analytical tools and will serve you for life whether you decide to be an engineer, a police officer, or a dancer. Come to class with an eager mind. Attend not only in body, but also in spirit.
- Get organized! Come to class prepared. Have your materials with you and have it ready to use as soon as you get in the classroom. When I arrive in the classroom, you should be ready to start.
- Do your homework. **Homework at Renert School is not optional.** Math is not a spectator sport: you learn it by practising, solving problems, and participating. It is an expectation that you complete your homework - the expectation is an average of 20-30 minutes per day.
- Have perseverance. The only way to improve in mathematics is by doing mathematics. Failing is part of the experience; do not despair if you do not get all the right answers right away (nobody does). The best learning is by trial and error.
- Participate in class and ask questions: if you do not know something, quite a few of your friends around you struggle with it as well.
- Make good use of our homework club. You can get all the support you need outside school hours. Make friends in class and study together. By helping your peers or getting them to assist you, everyone's learning is being greatly enhanced.
- Take good class notes so that you always have a reference. Your binder showcases your learning. Keeping your notes organized in your binder will also help to improve your learning.

Also:

- You may bring a small **plastic water bottle** with a lid to class if you need to drink a lot. If you forget it, you will not be able to get it during class.
- Integrity is valued and expected of all Renert Students. Copying answers wholesale from marking keys or friends, presenting someone else's work as yours, being untruthful about not having done homework or cheating on exams are not in the true spirit of Renert School.

### *F. Parent Expectations*

- Provide your child with a quiet environment, free of distractions (meaning no iPod, iPad, iPhone, or iAnything...) so they may concentrate when working at home.
- Support your child by marking their work (see *Marking Guide for Parents*) as they go. It makes a world of difference and takes minutes.
- Communicate **in real time** with me whenever an issue arises.

I have read, understood and intend to do my utmost to meet all above expectations:

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Parent should be familiar with this list of expectations, and make sure student understands them)