POWER BASICS Basic Mathematics

Program Overview

BW WALCH

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To the Teacher

Overview

Power Basics® is a complete textbook program designed to meet the needs of students who are daunted by the length and complexity of traditional textbooks. The goal of all textbook programs is to provide students with important new information. However, in traditional textbook programs, this goal is often overshadowed by other considerations. Many textbooks are written for the above-average reader and cover a wide range of content. They are filled with photographs, illustrations, and other visual elements. For some students, the amount of material is overpowering, the visual elements are distracting, and the rapid pace is unnerving. In Power Basics®, we revisited the basic goal, developing a streamlined textbook program that presents the essential content students need to succeed.

Program Components

As with traditional textbook programs, Power Basics® includes a core textbook and ancillary products designed to round out the program. The student text provides coverage of the essential content in each subject area. A consumable workbook provides a variety of activities for each lesson, including practice activities, extension activities, and activities designed for different learning styles.

The student text includes a collection of station-based activities that provide students with opportunities to extend beyond the mathematical skills and concepts they are learning. These station-based activities foster a collaborative learning experience, while allowing students the opportunity to reflect on and synthesize their thinking. These activities can be found near the end of the book.

Teacher support materials include a teacher's guide and test pack for each student text. The teacher's guide includes the following: an overview of each unit in the student text; suggestions for extension activities; the student text glossary and appendixes; a complete answer key to all practice activities and unit reviews in the student text; an overview/answer key for the station activities; classroom record-keeping forms; and graphic organizers for student use.

For more detailed assessments, the test pack offers a pretest, unit tests for each unit in the student text, a posttest, scoring keys, and test-taking strategies for students. Finally, a practice pack provides additional exercises with a separate answer key, organized by unit.

Student Book Organization

The student text is divided into units. Each unit contains a series of lessons on related topics, with one lesson for each topic. Each lesson begins with a clear, student-centered goal and a list of key words that are introduced in the lesson. The definitions for these words are included in the teacher material for each lesson.

Next comes a brief introduction to the topic of the lesson, followed by instructional text that presents essential information in short, easy-to-understand sections. Each section of instructional text is followed by a practice activity that lets students apply what they have just learned. A Unit Review is provided at the end of each unit to assess students' progress. The review is followed by an Application Activity that encourages students to extend and apply what they have learned.

The student text also includes several special features. "Tip" sections give students useful hints to help them remember specific pieces of information in the student text. "Think About It" sections ask students to use critical-thinking skills. "In Real Life" sections show students how the material they are learning connects to their own lives, answering the perennial question, "When am I ever going to use this?"

The reference section at the back of the student text includes a summary of rules and other important information presented in the text, a glossary (with pronunciation guide) that includes all vocabulary in the Words to Know sections, and an index to help students locate information in the text.

Record-Keeping Forms

To make record-keeping easier, we have provided reproducible class charts that you can use to track students' progress. Fill in your students' names, and make copies of the chart for each unit in the student text. Add lesson numbers, lesson titles, and practice numbers as needed. We have also provided a generic grading rubric for the Application Activities in the student text so that these activities may be assigned for credit, if you wish. You may customize the rubric by adding more grading criteria or adapting the criteria on the sheet to fit your needs.

We're pleased that you have chosen to Power Up your Basic Skills Curriculum with Power Basics®!

Guide to Icons

Teacher's Guide

Teaching Tips

Practical suggestions help you to engage students in the learning process.

Calculate It

Useful tips and tricks help students get the most from their calculators.

Mental Math

Oral math activities help learners develop strong mental arithmetic skills.

Differentiation

Different approaches to the content give all learners the opportunity to connect to the material.

Student Text

Tip

Tips give helpful hints to boost understanding and retention.

Think About It

These sections develop critical-thinking.

In Real Life

These features connect learning concepts to students' lives, answering the perennial question, "When am I ever going to use this?"

Workbook

Reinforcement

Reinforcement activities give students additional opportunities to practice what they have learned.

Multiple Intelligences

Different approaches capitalize on different learning styles and interests to help all students connect to the material.

Extension

Deepen and broaden learning with critical-thinking activities, real-life applications, and more.