

10 COMMON TERMS

Achievement Contract: Annual district goals to improve student achievement and success are outlined in an Achievement Contract.

Benchmark: Statement that provides a description of student knowledge expected at specific grades, ages, or developmental levels. Benchmarks often are used in conjunction with standards.

Exploratories: A range of subjects offered at the middle school level that allow students to experiment and expand their horizons outside of the core subject areas, ie., fine arts, applied skills and information technology.

Learning Outcomes: The standards of achievement for a course or subject and grade, are set out as learning outcomes in the provincial curriculum guide for that course or subject.

Manipulative: Any physical object (e.g., blocks, toothpicks, coins) that can be used to represent or model a problem situation or develop a mathematical concept.

Numeracy: A term that emerged in the United Kingdom and is now in use in Canada. Best described as "numerical literacy" or skill with numbers and mathematics.

Prep Time: A period set aside for teachers to plan curriculum, meet with parents, and evaluate student progress.

Rubric: Refers to a grading or scoring system. A rubric is a scoring tool that lists the criteria to be met in a piece of work. A rubric also describes levels of quality for each of the

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criteria. These levels or performance may be written as different ratings (eg., Excellent, Good, Needs Improvement) or as numerical scores, (eg., 4, 3, 2, 1).

School-based Team: A team of school-based personnel who function as a problem-solving group to assist classroom teachers in developing and implementing instructional and management strategies. As well, the team may coordinate support resources for students with special needs within the school.

ALL THE DETAILS

These terms and many more are commonly heard throughout School District 61. Definitions and useful links to further information about hundreds of education terms can be found in the glossary section at VCPAC's Parents61 webpage.