



SETON HOME STUDY SCHOOL

Saxon Math 54 (2nd Edition)

TEXT:

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Saxon Math!

John Saxon believes that “Mathematics is not difficult; it’s just different, and tasks that are different become familiar through practice. Learning mathematics, like learning a foreign language, a musical instrument, or any athletic skill, requires long term practice to develop and to maintain mastery of the skill.”

Saxon books, unlike other math books that introduce entire mathematical concepts in one class lesson, divide concepts into smaller, more easily grasped pieces called increments. A new increment is presented each day and students work only a few problems involving the new material. The remaining work consists of practical problems involving concepts introduced. Thus, every assignment as well as every test is a cumulative review of what has been covered up to that point.

Teaching Tips

Read the Preface in the *Saxon* textbook. The course is designed for the student to pace himself, thus eliminating the need for structured lesson plans.

The author suggests that 3 to 5 lessons be completed per week. It is, however, more important to master the material than it is to keep on a rigid schedule.

Speed drills or Facts Practice are mentioned in the textbook, but the Saxon company is not allowing us to reproduce these for you. You might use flash cards for your own drills.

If your child has trouble understanding a concept...

If a student has trouble understanding a concept, he might put work away for a while and come back to it later that same day or the next day. If the student still does not understand a concept, a Seton math counselor can be contacted by phone or e-mail. Also, questions can be asked on the Seton Math Message Board on the Seton website at www.setonhome.org. In addition, Seton sells a CD for the computer that tutors the student through each lesson in the Saxon book; the CD has audio and video. This tutorial CD may be ordered through the Seton website; click on Book Catalog.

Testing Guidelines

After extensive research on student testing performance for over a decade, Saxon has published the following Testing Procedure in its most recent Middle Grades Teacher Resource Packet:

Each test is cumulative, and [therefore] is a “mini” final examination. We advise that Test 1, which covers the first five lessons, be given only after Lesson 10 is taught and the homework completed and so on. This way you allow students five days to practice concepts that will be on the test. This procedure is critical.

As a result of this procedure, your child will be taking two tests after the final lesson of the year. For your convenience, the testing schedule is included in this lesson plan.

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