LITERACY & NUMERACY
What are Literacy and Numeracy?

**Literacy and Numeracy** describe a range of basic learning skills that we use in everyday life: reading, writing, speaking, listening, working with numbers, critical thinking, problem-solving, and using information technology (such as computers).

**Literacy** is the ability to read and write. It means being able to use language, numbers, images and other concepts to communicate with, and be readily understood, by others in your community. Literacy gives both students and adults the knowledge, and skills to participate in the social, cultural, political, and economic life in New Zealand and abroad.

**Numeracy** is being at home with numbers, and knowing the smartest way to solve mathematical problems. Basic numeracy skills include understanding and being able to use foundation mathematics such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Being numerate is being able to use mathematics well at home, at work and in the community.

Why are Literacy and Numeracy so important?

Literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy (mathematics and statistics) are the gateway to learning. Students need the necessary literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge to fully engage and achieve across all areas of the National Curriculum.

**Literacy:**

- To successfully be a part of New Zealand society and the wider world, students need to be effective oral, written, and visual communicators who can think critically and in depth.
- By understanding how language works, students are able to make the right language choices and use them in different situations.
- Gaining a strong foundation in language and literacy during the early years at school is essential for students to achieve academic success and become lifelong learners. Literacy skills are the building blocks for all learning.

**Numeracy:**

- Mathematics and statistics make it possible for students to investigate, interpret, explain and make sense of the world in which they live.
- By studying mathematics and statistics, students learn to think creatively, critically, strategically and logically. They learn to work though information, to communicate it well, and to enjoy intellectual challenge.
- By learning mathematics and statistics, students develop other important thinking skills. They learn to recognise patterns, to generalise and estimate, to calculate with certainty, and to solve problems.

National Curriculum

The New Zealand Curriculum (for English medium schools and kura) and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (for Māori medium schools and kura) set the direction for teaching and learning in New Zealand schools and kura. They have a vision for our young people as lifelong learners who are confident, connected and actively involved.

The New Zealand Curriculum Online

Information and resources for whānau


Te Marautanga o Aotearoa


The curriculum includes eight learning areas: English, the arts, health and education, learning languages, mathematics and statistics, science, social sciences, and technology. Literacy and numeracy are key components of all of these learning areas.
Digital Resources

National Standards
Information and resources for whānau
http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz

Ngā Whanaketanga Rumaki Māori
Information and resources for whānau
http://tmoa.tki.org.nz/Nga-Whanaketanga-Rumaki-Maori

Early Learning through to Years 1-8.
http://bit.do/NZcurriculumResources

NZQA Literacy and Numeracy NCEA
http://bit.do/NZQALitnum

Careers NZ
http://www.careers.govt.nz

Education.govt.nz
http://parents.education.govt.nz/

How is my child doing?
http://bit.do/EROparentsguide
This booklet suggests questions parents can ask teachers in primary and secondary schools about their child’s learning and wellbeing at school, and what to expect. It also looks at what makes a successful school.