Overview of Striving Mathematicians		
Why:	Mathematics is developmental, conceptual, and complex. Teaching math well requires understanding how students build knowledge over time—moving from concrete experiences to abstract reasoning. Striving Mathematicians supports educators in delivering instruction that meets the developmental needs of all learners by aligning math instruction in the Science of Math.	
	Striving Mathematicians enhances and improves any math curriculum by helping educators identify where students are within the math standards, close learning gaps, and scaffold instruction for any tier of learning and for any group learning model (small group, whole group, one-on-one).	
What:	The following instructional principles shape how we work through the Striving Mathematicians Process:	
	 Math is developmental and rarely linear: We have created options to follow learning trajectories which parallels grade-level expectations. Students can be stuck in some conceptual misunderstandings but still find ways to be successful with other concepts and in other domains. Procedures and concepts must work together: We promote fluency through conceptual and procedural understanding. Representation matters: Moving from concrete → representational → abstract is intentional. Assessment drives instruction: Instruction is informed by data and student work. Equity is essential: All students are capable of rigorous mathematical thinking, so we have developed routines and activities that promote high levels of learning with high expectations for students. 	
How?	The Striving Mathematicians Process is a six-step continuous improvement cycle that brings the Science of Math into classrooms. It is a repeatable, data-driven system supported by research-supported methods throughout each step. The system includes a book, a continuously evolving digital dashboard, and a math community of support.	
	 Assess Need: Use STRIVE's Assessment Resources to identify student skill levels. Study Data: Analyze student data using STRIVE's grade-level Focus Folders and skill-based strand processes. Plan Targeted Instruction: Develop focused instructional plans using STRIVE's Lesson Planning and PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) tools. Teach Lessons: Implement systematic and engaging instruction using STRIVE's Targeted Activities and Routines. Monitor and Measure: Use a body of evidence from STRIVE's assessment resources to track progress. Celebrate Growth: Refine goals and repeat the cycle to ensure continuous improvement. 	



Process	The System consists of:
	• Focus Folders map out a progression of developmental abilities and standards that learners typically follow when understanding math concepts. The Math Focus Folders help teachers identify where students are along this progression and what comes next, enabling precise instructional planning. This approach ensures students can build on their existing knowledge and transfer understanding to more complex concepts.
	• Assessment Resources are designed to diagnose placement and measure progress along the developmental trajectory outlined in the Math Focus Folders. The use of daily formative assessments, progress monitors aligned to standards and PDSAs (Plan, Do, Study, Act) cycles help teachers gather a body of evidence to determine whether students are mastering targeted skills, inform instructional adjustments, and assess readiness to move to the next skill group or focus area. When used consistently, they support data-driven instruction and continuous student growth.
	• Routines are common and consistent procedures, often used as "ways of doing" or systems in math instruction. They follow similar patterns of instruction and are easy to substitute in new numbers or content because the teaching pattern is the same.
	• Targeted Activities are embedded in each Math Focus Folder to provide teachers with explicit instructional strategies aligned to specific math skills. These activities outline what to teach and how to teach it—ensuring instruction is focused and effective. With built-in scaffolds and consistent structure, they help educators deliver high-quality instruction in whole group and small group settings.
	• Active Engagement: To ensure students are not only learning content, active engagement strategies are built into the routines and practices within STRIVE's Math System. Learners are supported through a multi-modal approach to teaching and learning, one in which the learners are not passive but active in their learning and gain confidence in their abilities.
	Finally, educators receive ongoing support and evolving tools with the Striving Mathematicians System:
	 A comprehensive book outlining the full process and including the instructional foundations (i.e., Focus Folders, Targeted activities, Routines, Assessment Resources). Access to a continuously evolving and growing digital dashboard with regularly updated videos, tools, and instructional resources. Membership in the Striving Mathematicians community, a collaborative and supportive network focused on equity, growth, and best practices in math instruction.
	Explore more at <u>https://strivetlc.com/math/</u> and to access your dashboard.

