



There are 10 levels of “Kyu”– students can take exams from level 10 to advance levels (total 10 levels plus 10 master levels = 20 exam levels)

- Multiplication / Time tables calculation required from 9 kyu
- Division calculation required from 8 kyu
- A student might skip some levels depends on the progress
 - no skipping levels higher than Level 8
- Our curriculum follows **“League for Soroban Education of America”**
- Students need to pass the exam to advance levels
- Mental Calculation exams (Anzan exam) from Level 6(no exams between level 10 - 7)

4 exams per year (March, June, Sep, Dec): students may take 2 exams in the same exam week (abacus and mental exam)

- All abacus exam levels: **7 minutes each subject ($\times, \div, \pm = 3$ subjects)**
Pass = **more than 10 questions out of 15 for All subjects**
- All mental calculation (Anzan) exam levels: 3 minutes each subject: **($\times \div \pm$) pass = more than 14 questions out of 20 questions for each level**

Basic curriculum (Example: January to March)

1st month (Jan): learn new subject such as times tables & divisions / how to do / how to be faster

2nd month (Feb): Instructor times each subject for **6 minutes instead of 7 minutes** (times tables/divisions/ adding & minus) if students can get around 10 questions out of 15 → take an exam to progress on 3rd month

3rd month (March):

- Spending more time to practice for exams & time trial to pass/progress levels

Not all students take an exam every 3 months (always trying to) depending on the progress, but we always plan to take an exam to keep children motivated / make a goal to do more practice such as competitions.

Sample schedule by levels

Beginners: 4 exams per year (March, June, Sept, Dec)

Intermediate: 4 exams + correspondence competitions + dictation sessions

Advanced: 4 exams + correspondence competitions + dictation sessions + all north american competitions + online competitions with Japanese schools

Participating in competitions

- **Correspondence Competition** : divided into the age group, and having the same competition papers in the same week, compete with other abacus schools: the League for Soroban Education of America) around spring time (April or May) every year ()
- **North Regional Competition**: 3 abacus schools- Abacus Calgary, JAMS Portland, Abacus Seattle : compete by each level (not by ages), exchange competition between these 3 schools (participation level: level 7 and up)
- **All North American Competition**: all abacus schools: <https://www.sorobanleague.org/> in North American Abacus League participate: compete by ages/grades, award champion / first place in north america (participation level : level 3 and up)
- **Online Dictation Certification Sessions/Contest** : all abacus schools participate: 3 sessions per year via Zoom. Each session has 3 or 4 practise sessions, last session is exam day (participation level 7 and up)

We strongly believe students need a “goal” to keep motivated to practice. Our goal is not only to practise abacus and mental calculation skills, also students need to have ***self-confidence, concentration and competitive skills.***