

## Kumon of Park Ridge

401 Devon Avenue  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
Phone (847) 939-5090

### Center Hours

Tuesdays	3:00 – 7:00 pm
Thursdays	3:00 – 7:00 pm

## Kumon of Niles

860 Civic Center Drive  
Niles, IL 60714  
Phone (847) 324-5120

### Center Hours

Mondays	3:30 – 7:30 pm
Wednesdays	3:30 – 7:30 pm
Saturdays	10:00 – 1:00 pm

## Visit Us Online

[kumonofparkridge.com](http://kumonofparkridge.com)  
[kumonofniles.com](http://kumonofniles.com)



## The Kumon Method.

# What does the development of maximum ability mean?

### Ability

*The power to accomplish something. Capability.*

It is said that “A jewel can’t shine without polishing.”

The Kumon Method aims to develop the maximum ability of each child regardless of grade level. Developing maximum ability means developing the given potential of the child, therefore enhancing the child’s capacity to the maximum. This is our mission.

In school education, each grade has set achievement goals. If the student’s learning ability reaches them, the goal is thought to be accomplished. Even if children have enough learning ability to advance to the next level, the . . . educational system doesn’t necessarily encourage them to go forward. The reality of school, especially public education, is to leave the child alone after coaching the child’s talent or potential to some defined level. But the “defined level” is [*an arbitrary standard*], and it doesn’t completely reflect the realities of children’s potential and the problems found in real classes.

Accordingly, it is almost impossible to expect to develop each student’s learning ability to the maximum extent in a formal school environment. People each have different talents, abilities and learning speeds. To develop each student’s maximum capacity, the teacher must be able to recognize each student’s different level and work accordingly.

Education that relies on grades poses an even bigger problem. The problem stems from the belief that we should not tailor teaching to the child but rather the child to the school.

The following story reflects this attitude. During the war, [the Army] supplied boots to soldiers, but the boots were often either too small or too big. When a soldier said to his officer, “These shoes do not fit my feet sir,” the officer shouted, “. . . Fit your feet to the shoes!”

Education that does not adopt a teaching system tailored to each student’s learning ability but adopts a system depending on grades can be analogous to “fitting the foot to the shoe.” . . . But the Kumon Method is different. We educate by “fitting the shoe (material, teaching methods) to the foot children”. It is education that respects each individual and helps them develop their maximum ability.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE KUMON  
NILES AND PARK RIDGE CENTERS