



Northshore
School District

Obadiah Dunham

Assistant Superintendent, North Region

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Northshore School District will offer a summer accelerated eighth grade math class for current seventh grade students who have successfully completed the seventh grade math class and want to accelerate their math progress by taking Algebra 1 as an eighth grader next fall. This is a big step for students and an important decision for families to make. We have developed a process we believe will help families consider available options as you decide whether a summer accelerated eighth grade math class is right for your student.

It is essential that interested students take an eighth grade accelerated math class that is aligned with the Washington State Learning Standards (Common Core State Math Standards), such as the class offered in the Northshore School District Summer Academy, that will prepare them to successfully complete Algebra 1 in their eighth grade year.

The Washington State Learning Standards in Math have been carefully developed to define clear learning progressions through the major mathematical domains. All students, including those most accomplished in mathematics, need to learn each topic with diligence and dedication. Skimming over existing materials in order to get ahead to more advanced topics is not considered good practice, as it can create gaps in the students' mathematical background. Summer courses need to provide the equivalent experience of a full year of Algebra 1, including the Standards for Mathematical Practice in the Common Core.

Students who take an accelerated summer course do not have the same amount of time to learn topics as they do during a full year course. The Northshore Summer School Accelerated math courses move at a fast pace to cover a year-long course compressed into 5 weeks. Students need to be prepared to learn math at a very rigorous pace and to complete hours of homework each day.

If you have questions about your student's readiness for an accelerated summer math course, please contact your student's math teacher. If you decide to take this step, please return the appropriate forms to your student's math teacher and counselor so that they can prepare to adjust your student's schedule prior to the start of school next fall.

Sincerely,

Obadiah Dunham

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Assistant Superintendent