



Northshore
School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Northshore School District students take the math sequence of Algebra 1, Geometry, and a third year of high school math as a state and district graduation requirement and in preparation for college and careers. Some students and parents are inquiring about a summer Algebra 1 course for current eighth grade students who have successfully completed the eighth grade core math that would accelerate their progress through the Northshore School District math program. This is an important decision for families to make. We have developed a process to help families consider the available options when deciding whether a summer accelerated Algebra 1 course is the right step for your student.

It is essential that interested students take an accelerated Algebra 1 class that is aligned with the Washington State Learning Standards (Common Core State Math Standards) that will prepare them to successfully complete Geometry the following school year. Students must master the concepts in Algebra 1 in order to be successful in higher-level high school mathematics courses such as Algebra 2-Trig, Pre-calculus, and Calculus. Students will take an 11th grade state math assessment based on the new State Math Learning Standards and must score at a Level 3 or 4 to meet graduation requirements.

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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Director, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment