

Math Academy Overview

Fairfield Public Schools is offering an opportunity for students who qualify to participate in an accelerated mathematics class starting in grade 4. This class, known as the Math Academy, has completed its first academic year in 2019-2020. The purpose of the academy is to offer an alternative path to qualifying students for entering pre-algebra-7 as 6th graders.

The Math Academy is housed at Holland Hill with a maximum of 25 students who are instructed in a self-contained setting. A minimum class size of 13 students will be required to run the Math Academy. Transportation to and from Holland Hill is provided by the families for both grade 4 and grade 5. We ask families who are invited, and accept the invitation to participate and commit to the two years of the program. Students will return to their districted home school when they enter middle school. While at Holland Hill, students participating in the Math Academy will receive the full 4th and 5th grade curricula consistent with all Fairfield elementary schools with the exception of this accelerated mathematics curriculum. They will be part of the Holland Hill community in every way.

Identification Process

The district uses the following measures to determine eligibility for the Math Academy:

- Math Practices Student Evaluation Form
- Math Fluency Tests
- Grade level expectations based on Math Progress Report
- Cognitive Ability Test (CogAT) subtest scores
- Naglieri (NNAT 3)

All identifying information such as school, student name, and gender are not part of the identification process. Once candidates are identified their families are notified of their eligibility. If more than 25 families accept the invitation to the program, all candidates will then be entered into a lottery to determine the final 25 participants. If fewer than 13 families accept the invitation, the Math Academy will not be held for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Timeline

| | |
|------------------|---|
| October 3rd week | CogAT and NNAT3 administered to grade 3 students. |
| May 1st week | Data is compiled from grade 3 students. |
| May 4th week | Parents of qualified students are notified. |
| June 1st week | Lottery and family commitment to the program confirmed. |

Reconsideration for entrance to the Math Academy is not available once students have been identified and the class enrollment is met. It is important to note that any 3rd grade student who does not participate in the Math Academy will still have the opportunity to

qualify for pre-algebra 7 at the end of 5th grade. This is determined by their grade five performance, end of year grade 5 mathematics assessments, and an additional aptitude test.