March 21, 2022 -

Dear Families of 5th Grade Students:

I hope your child is enjoying fifth grade and looking forward to transitioning to middle school. This correspondence provides notification of your child's placement for sixth-grade math.

Your child's placement has been entered into Aspen. Click here for instructions on how to access this information.

For students placed in Grade 6 Math, a waiver may be completed for entrance into Grade 6 Advanced Math. The waiver is located on the Secondary Level Math Department Website. A waiver is not available for entrance into Grade 6 Accelerated PreAlgebra. For additional information about the course progressions at the middle school level visit the Secondary Level Math Department Website.

All students will be **reevaluated** during the first few weeks of school by their sixth-grade math teacher to confirm student placement. **The reevaluation process** includes the following steps:

- A curriculum assessment, a short skills survey, and a review of standardized test scores (SBAC and OLSAT) are completed.
- Review of data to monitor student progress is on-going. Teachers may recommend changes to a course placement at various times throughout the year. A conversation with parents before making a change in course placement takes place.

At this time, math placements communicated in this letter will not change, but all students will be reevaluated in the fall at which time movement between courses will be considered. If you have questions about the process, criteria, or your student's placement please contact your building principal.

Mr. Betts, Tokeneke School
Ms. Bleakley, Holmes School
Dr. Forshaw, Ox Ridge School
Dr. Mullin, Royle School
Ms. Snowden, Hindley School

I look forward to meeting you and your child in the fall.

Sincerely,

Felicia J. Bellows, Ed.D., Math Department Chair

Middlesex Middle School
Grade 6 Mathematics Placement Process

Beginning in Grade 6, students are placed into one of three mathematics courses: Grade 6 Mathematics, Grade 6 Advanced Mathematics, Grade 6 Accelerated PreAlgebra. A summary of the curriculum for each course is included below. The mathematics department uses multiple criteria to determine student placement. These criteria, which are included below, are aligned with previously used criteria to ensure placement into a mathematics course where the student will find maximum success. Final notification of a student's placement will take place in March.

The goal is to place each student in a mathematics course that will provide an appropriate cognitive challenge for his/her current developmental level. It has been our experience that students benefit from the high expectations that are set in each course of study. In all Grade 6 courses, students work on developing their reasoning, problem-solving, and computation skills.

Placement Process

There are multiple opportunities for students to accelerate their mathematics course of study during middle school and high school. The consistent goal is to ensure that students are placed in the course that provides appropriate cognitive challenges.

If a parent feels that the recommended course placement will not provide the appropriate challenge for their child they may complete and submit a *Non-Recommended Course Waiver*. It is important to note that *Non-Recommended Course Waivers* are not available for admittance into Accelerated Pre-Algebra.

Grade 6 Mathematics

Student placement after completion of the fifth-grade math curriculum.

Grade 6 Advanced Mathematics

Student placement into Grade 6 Advanced will be determined using **two criteria** (*two must be met)*. Parents **may complete a** waiver regardless of the criteria met.

- 5th Grade OLSAT Non-Verbal Scaled Score of 615 or greater
    - Administered the beginning of December in school
- Midyear Curriculum Assessment- 80% or greater
    - The assessment will include grade-level content from units taught
    - Administered the end of January in school

Grade 6 Accelerated PreAlgebra

Student placement into Accelerated Pre-Algebra will be determined using two criteria (*two of two criteria must be met).* Parents **may not complete** a waiver regardless of the criteria met. **There is not a placement test administered after school.** This was eliminated during the 2018-19 school year.

- 5th Grade OLSAT Non-Verbal Scale Score 701 or greater
    - Administered the beginning of December in school
- Midyear Curriculum Assessment-92% or greater
    - The assessment will include grade-level content from units taught
    - Administered the end of January in school

Course Descriptions

Grade 6 Mathematics

Grade 6 Mathematics is aligned with current Grade 6 Connecticut Core Standards. The major focus of Grade 6 Math is developing ratio and proportional reasoning, introducing integers, algebraic expressions, and solving one-variable equations. Students will focus on operations with fractions including multiplication and division of fractions, operations with multi-digit numbers, finding common factors and multiples, solving problems with area, surface area, and volume. This course is designed to prepare students to take Grade 7 Mathematics.

Grade 6 Advanced Mathematics

Grade 6 Advanced Mathematics includes all units of study from Grade 6 Mathematics and one-half of the course content from Grade 7 Mathematics. . The major focus of Grade 6 Advanced Mathematics is developing ratio and proportional reasoning, operations with integers and algebraic expressions, solving and graphing equations. Students will focus on operations with fractions including multiplication and division of fractions, operations with multi-digit numbers, finding common factors and multiples, solving problems with area, surface area, and volume. This course is designed to prepare students to take Grade 7 Advanced Mathematics and Algebra or Accelerated Algebra in Grade 8.

Grade 6 Accelerated PreAlgebra

Grade 6 Accelerated PreAlgebra includes all units of study from Grade 6 Mathematics, Grade 7 Mathematics, and Grade 8 PreAlgebra. The major focus of Accelerated PreAlgebra is developing operations with integers and algebraic expressions, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, ratio and proportional reasoning, and geometry. Students will focus on both rational and irrational numbers, working with radicals and exponents. They will develop an understanding of the connection between ratio and proportional reasoning and proportional relationships. Students will also work with geometric figures, understanding geometric properties, congruence, similarity, transformations, area, surface area, volume, and the Pythagorean Theorem. This course is designed to prepare students to take Accelerated Algebra I in Grade 7.