

**Heather Tow-Yick , Superintendent**

February 1, 2023

Dear Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the Issaquah School District’s advanced and accelerated options in English Language Arts, Math, and Science for students in middle school whose personal goals, interests, and abilities would benefit from these options. Families interested in Advanced Language Arts, or skipping a year of science or math content should consider the following guidance.

**Students choosing advanced/accelerated courses should:**

- Reflect student’s interest and aspirations in that course of study.
- Have excellent study habits and organizational skills.
- Have strong communication and reading skills for engaging with rigorous material.
- Demonstrate motivation, maturity, perseverance and stamina for learning challenging material.
- Be active participants in all aspects of the classroom, including discussions, group or individual projects, and labs.
- Consider the increased time commitment to studies outside of the school day. Please consider all responsibilities, including sports, music and club affiliations.
- Consider the possibility that grades could be lower than if students took the typical course sequence(s).
- Consider the possibility that by skipping courses in math and science your student may have some gaps in content knowledge.

This is an important decision for students and families. In Language Arts, this decision will be made yearly. For math and science, once a student starts a path above grade level it may not possible to change course without repeating content at some point in time. Below is additional information to consider as you make your course selections.

<b>Advanced Language Arts Readiness Criteria</b>	<b>Math Pathway C CC7/8 Math Readiness Criteria (skipping content)</b>	<b>Science Pathway 2 Readiness Criteria</b>
2022 SBA ELA score: Level 4	2022 SBA Math score: Level 4 Common Core 6 Mastery Assessment: 80% or higher	2022 SBA Math score: Level 4 Common Core 6 Mastery Assessment: 80% or higher
Report Card Grades in Reading and Writing: 4	Report Card Grades in Math: 4	Report Card Grades in Math: 4 Reading and Writing:4
iReady reading score in 5 <sup>th</sup> grade above 4.00 and reading above grade level	iReady math score above 4.00 and working at a 7 <sup>th</sup> grade level	iReady math score above 4.00 and working at a 7 <sup>th</sup> grade level

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The following pages have more information to consider when choosing middle school math and science placement. The readiness criteria is designed to serve as a guide. Students do not have to meet the readiness criteria in order to select a more advanced or accelerated pathway.

Families should also be aware that high school level credit courses taken in the 2019-2020 school year or LATER will automatically be added to the student's transcript, this is in accordance with District Regulation 2410. Students can request to have the course transcribed only for credit toward graduation and not include the grade in the student's high school GPA calculation. Students can also request to have these credits removed completely from their transcript. **Please note that once the grades and/or credits are deleted from the high school transcript, the grade and credit cannot be added back and will permanently be excluded from the student's grade point average.** This will impact students that follow Math Pathway B or C and students that choose Science Pathway 2.

Sincerely,

Rich Mellish  
Executive Director  
Teaching and Learning Services