

February 1, 2023

Dear Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the Issaquah School District’s advanced and accelerated options for Language Arts and Math. Your student will automatically be enrolled in the appropriate Science class, based on last year’s self-select decision.

Issaquah School District offers advanced and/or accelerated options for 7<sup>th</sup> graders in English Language Arts and Math. Families interested in Advanced Language Arts, or the accelerated math path, 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.
- 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 increased rigor and vigorous pacing of the *Compacted Pacing* math pathway which condenses a year and a half of math into one year.

This is an important decision for students and families. In Language Arts, this decision will be made yearly. For math, once a student starts a path above grade level it may not be 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>CC7/8 Math Compacted Pacing Readiness Criteria</b>  |
|---|--|
| Report Card Grades in Language Arts: B+ or higher<br>SBA ELA score: Level 4 | Grades on CC6 Tests and Quizzes: 90% or higher<br>Common Core 6 Mastery Assessment: 90% or higher<br>SBA Math score: Level 4 |

The following pages have more information to consider when choosing middle school math 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

**Board of Directors**

Harlan Gallinger • Marnie Maraldo • Anne Moore • Sydne Mullings • Suzanne Weaver

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 select compacted pacing.

Sincerely,

Rich Mellish  
Executive Director  
Teaching and Learning Services