

Lower Merion School District

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November 10, 2023

Dear Families of Grade 4 Students:

As a District, we strive to give every student the opportunity to progress through the math program while accessing the most rigorous courses the District has to offer. The District has multiple opportunities for students to access accelerated and higher-level courses as they progress through school. This was done to create consistency within our K-12 math program and to provide greater support for our students who demonstrate potential for acceleration in math.

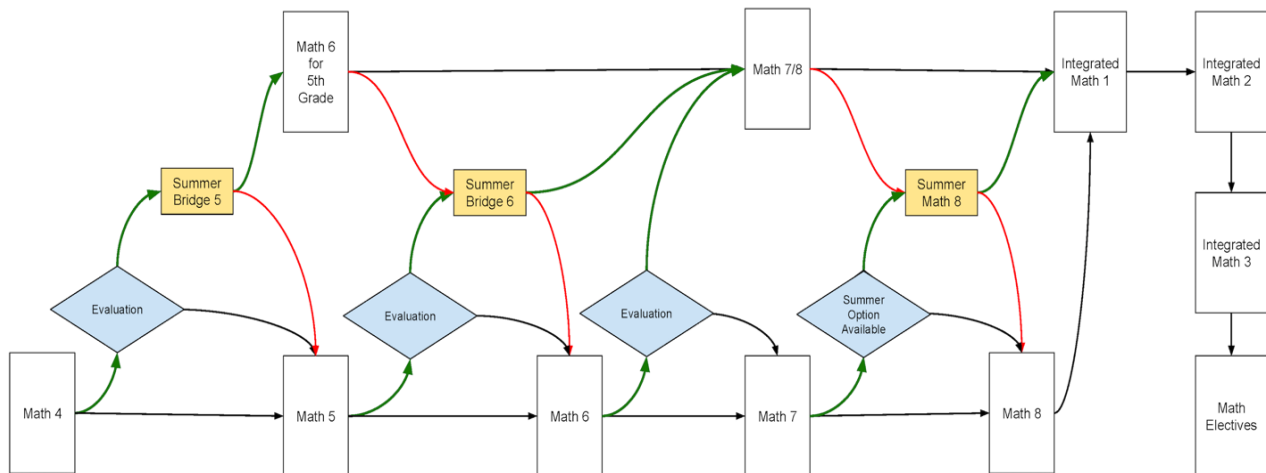
The criteria used to determine which students qualify for possible placement into grade 6 math in grade 5 are fully explained on the second page of this letter. We anticipate that the majority of students will continue in the grade-level program, which will provide appropriate curricular challenges for long-term success. The chart below outlines the current progression of math courses beginning in grade 4. The chart is read from left to right. The course progression on the bottom represents students on grade level for math. The red and green arrows represent opportunities for acceleration and deceleration between levels.

It is the District's intent to ensure that all students continue to receive meaningful academic and holistic support, and students are provided access to a rich and challenging math experience.

If you have any questions regarding the placement process, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Jason Lilly at lillyj@lmsd.org.

Sincerely,

Jason Lilly, Ed.D.
Lead Supervisor for Curriculum and Instruction



Criteria for Fifth Grade Placement

Below is an explanation of the District-wide process and criteria for math placement in fifth grade. All of our math courses engage students in making sense of mathematics and emphasize reasoning, problem solving, communication, and critical thinking.

- ✓ The grade level math program gives our children the opportunity to fully develop and understand the foundational math skills necessary to be successful in higher level mathematics.
- ✓ The accelerated level math program is intended for those students who demonstrate that they can apply and extend math content, knowledge and processes beyond the grade level curriculum.

Criteria for Acceleration Placement - Math 6 in Grade 5			
Curriculum Based Placement Assessment	Benchmarks	Report Card Average Performance Indicators	Performance Criteria Score
80%-100% = 5 points 70% -79% = 4 points 60%-69% = 3 points 50%-59% = 1 point Below 50% = 0 points	Three Advanced = 4 points Two Advanced, 1 Proficient = 3 points One Advanced, 2 Proficient = 2 points Three Proficient = 1 point Any Basic or Below Basic = 0 points	3.75 - 4.0 = 3 points 3.5 - 3.74 = 2 points 3.0 - 3.49 = 1 point Below 3.0 = 0 points	5 = 2 points 4 = 1 point Below 4 = 0 points
<p>The curriculum-based placement assessment measures where students are in relation to the essential grade 5 math content standards as defined in the District Grade 5 math curriculum.</p> <p>This assessment is untimed and administered in the month of May.</p>	<p>Benchmarks are used as “checkpoints” to monitor progress toward meeting performance goals. There are three District-made benchmark assessments administered throughout the year to assess where students are in relation to the grade level content standards addressed up to that point in time.</p>	<p>Report Card performance indicators convey proficiency on grade level standards.</p> <p>The student’s third trimester math performance indicators will be averaged to determine if the student consistently meets and/or is able to apply and extend the majority of reported grade-level standards.</p>	<p>The <i>Standards for Mathematical Practice</i> are the skills used by mathematically-proficient students.</p> <p>The teacher assesses the student using a District-made rubric that incorporates the <i>Standards for Mathematical Practice</i>.</p>
<p>Score of 12-14: Will be recommended for acceleration – Optional Summer Bridge Program.</p> <p>Score Range 9-11: Will be recommended for acceleration pending successful completion of the Summer Bridge Program.</p> <p>Score Range 0-8: Will be placed in Math 5.</p>			

You will receive notification in June if your child qualified for accelerated math or if they qualify for acceleration pending successful completion of the Summer Bridge Program.

All students who qualify for acceleration pending the Summer Bridge Program will be required to successfully complete the program before placement in grade 6 math while in grade 5. This is to ensure that they are fully prepared for grade 6 math by demonstrating a strong foundation of essential grade 5 math skills and competencies that are needed for success in grade 6 math.

If you have any questions, please contact the Elementary Curriculum Office at 610-645-1905. Thank you.