ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

52585 Dequindre Rd., Rochester, Michigan 48307. Phone: 248.726.3000. Fax: 248.726.3105.

Hello Eighth Grade Parents and Guardians!

For those students currently enrolled in Algebra 1, they will have the choice next year to sign up for either Geometry or Honors Geometry. As a district math department, our goal is to make sure you have the tools to make an informed decision about this choice with your student.

Honors Geometry is a more rigorous course than Geometry. Students will engage with the same content standards in both courses, but will be expected to dig deeper and persevere through more difficult problems in Honors Geometry. Honors Geometry is designed for students who are mathematically curious, enjoy challenging themselves with complex problems, and have the desire to work independently and collaboratively to problem-solve. Please note that students **do not** receive a Grade Point Average boost for taking "honors" courses, but these courses may be looked upon favorably for college admissions.

Please also note the following information about high school honors mathematics courses, including Honors Geometry:

1. The honors math curriculum is one in which students can expect to move at a fast pace through new concepts at a deeper level. Such rigor and pacing may result in increased effort/time on a student's behalf.

2. Students may receive lower grades than they have typically earned, due to the rigor of the assessments and pacing of the course.

3. High levels of academic rigor and pacing are expectations of the class. The teacher will be maintaining these levels of rigor and pacing throughout the course.

4. The student is responsible for reviewing or learning prerequisite skills/concepts. The teacher will not be expected to teach material from any prerequisite course or to spend an extraordinary amount of time on individual tutoring and re-teaching.

5. If a student is placed in honors math and is having difficulty keeping up, he or she may not be allowed to change course level until semester and will only be moved if space is available.

The Rochester Community Schools math curriculum team has compiled a list of data points that will help you to make an informed decision about Honors Geometry with your child. The criteria includes standardized test performance, prior class grades, and "math mindset" questions via a student and parent inventory. These recommended criteria are suggested benchmarks to allow you to make the best decision possible for your student. Please note that the "Student Self-Inventory" is a great predictor of perseverance, independent problem-solving, and overall success in honors courses.

Here is a digital copy of the criteria, including the "Student Self-Inventory" and "Parent Inventory," for your reference: bit.ly/rcshonorsmathinventory. You may use this, along with a conversation with your student, to decide if Honors Geometry is the right fit for them.

Also, please complete this Google Form that provides recommended criteria to discuss with your student before signing up for Honors Geometry. **Completing this form is mandatory for any student who registers for Honors Geometry.**

Please reach out to Stefanie Little, Rochester's Curriculum Consultant at slittle@rochester.k12.mi.us with any questions about this process. Our goal is to make sure your student is set up for success during their first year at Rochester High School. Thank you for your support and care in this process. We can't wait to work with your student next year!