TO: Parents of Grade 5 and Grade 6 Students

FROM: Dr. Rebecca Chowske, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

DATE: September 26, 2025

RE: Updated Entrance Criteria for Double-Accelerated Mathematics (Grade 6) and AP-Intensive Science (Grade 7)

Background

The District has historically revised accelerated program admissions to balance rigor, fairness, and transparency. Past challenges included reliance on CogAT, teacher recommendations, and shifting cut scores, which created inconsistencies. Following analysis of four prior cohorts and stakeholder input, the District has updated requirements for 25-26. We will continue our commitment to data review, cohort analysis, and gathering of feedback from the Manhasset community, staff, and students as we have done in the past.

Double-Accelerated Mathematics (Grade 6 Entry)

Eligibility Requirements:

- Secure Exam: Minimum 65/100 (Grade 6 Math Standards). *Any 5th grade student who wishes to challenge themselves may sit for this exam.*
- NWEA MAP: Average of three Grade 5 administrations, achievement scores only.

Secure Exam Score	Minimum Grade 5 NWEA Average Achievement
65–74	≥ 95%
75–84	≥ 90%
85–100	≥ 85%

Double-Accelerated Mathematics (Grade 7 Entry)

Eligibility Requirements:

- Secure Exam: Minimum 65/100 (Grades 6–8 cumulative exam). *Any 6th grade student who is not currently enrolled in double-accelerated math may sit for this exam.*
- NWEA MAP: Average of three Grade 6 administrations, achievement scores only.

Secure Exam Score	Minimum Grade 6 NWEA Average Achievement
65–74	≥ 95%
75–84	≥ 90%
85–100	≥ 85%

Although this cannot replace the classroom experience or instruction in these areas, nor will it impact a student's entrance in any manner, families who wish to gain exposure to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math concepts may do so through their child's IXL account. Students with an interest in accelerated mathematics may also find joining Mathletes a helpful exposure to advanced thinking and mathematical applications.

AP-Intensive Science (Grade 7 Entry)

Eligibility Requirement: Students must earn a minimum of 16 points (out of 20 possible) to qualify for admission.

The rubric is divided into three components:
1. **Secure Entrance Exam** (0–10 points): Scored from 0–100% and converted into a 0–10 scale. Emphasizes application of science concepts rather than recall. Embedded Grade 6 mathematics skills are included, and all required formulas are provided. *Any grade 6 student may sit for this exam.*
2. **Lab & Test Averages (**0–5 points): Each trimester's lab and test averages are combined. Converted into a 0–5 scale to ensure students demonstrate both practical and academic mastery.
3. **Trimester Exams** (0–5 points): Administered at the conclusion of Trimesters 1, 2, and 3. Cumulative exams assessing long-term retention and application, converted into a 0–5 scale.

Combined Entrance Rubric Scoring:

Secure Entrance Exam (0-10 points)	Trimester Exams (0-5 points)	Lab & Test Average (0-5 points)
96-100% = 10	96-100% = 5	98-100% = 5
90-95% = 9	90-95% = 4	87-97% = 4
85-89% = 8	85-89% = 3	70-86% = 3
80-84% = 7	80-84% = 2	65-69% = 2
75-79% = 6	75-79% = 1	1-69% = 1
70-74% = 5	70-74% = 0	0
65-69% = 4	65-69% = 0	0

Below 65% = 3	**Below 65% = 0**	**0**

Process Transparency & Consistency (Applies to Both Math & Science)

- Criteria Published: Entrance criteria posted prior to the first Grade 5 NWEA.
- No Mid-Year Adjustments: Cut scores remain fixed for the year.
- Transparent Notifications: Acceptance letters released with final report cards.
- Exam Scores Included: Secure exam results provided in notification letters.
- Multiple Access Points: Students may enter double-accelerated math in Grade 6 or Grade 7; science entry point is Grade 7.

Additional Information can be found on the District's Curriculum & Instruction webpage: Curriculum and Instruction - Manhasset Public Schools

- 2025-2026 Acceleration Program FAQs
- 9/26/2025 Grades 5 and 6 Parent/Guardian letter reflecting eligibility updates
- 9/25/2025 Board of Education Discussion materials