

February 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As your child prepares to enter the middle school, you may be wondering:

- ❖ How will my child be placed in his or her math class?
- ❖ What opportunities are available for math advancement?
- ❖ How are curricular changes affecting math instruction?

We will be using the following data points to identify high performing/potential math students:

- ❖ In-View's Cognitive Skills Index (CSI) score of 125 or above (all students will take this in the spring),
- ❖ Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) score of 234 or higher, and
- ❖ Demonstration of high math achievement over time on report cards
- ❖ Teachers will be asked to report the presence of the following dispositions:
  - *Does the student learn quickly and efficiently? (with 1 to 2 exposures to new material)*
  - *Does this student retain new learning?*
  - *Does the student transfer learning to new situations?*
  - *Does the student communicate mathematical understanding – both verbally and in writing?*
  - *Is this student usually self-directed?*
  - *Does this student have the necessary foundational skills in mathematics?*

The placement team advocates for each child to be placed at his/her instructional level. For this reason, the criteria and expectations for placement in this mathematics class are specific and very stringent. The above information will be evaluated by the several staff members, and testing with the In-View will occur at each elementary school in spring. Specific dates will follow.

If, after the additional testing, your child meets the established criteria, s/he will be placed in an accelerated mathematics class. Grades 6 and 7 will be compacted creating a highly challenging learning sequence ensuring mastery of skills necessary for proficiency and enrichment at your child's instructional level.

If, after the additional testing, your child does not meet the established criteria, s/he will be placed in the 6th grade math class. The rigor of the 6th grade will provide the appropriate level of challenge. The math teachers will ensure mastery of skills necessary for proficiency and enrichment at your child's instructional level.

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 27, 2016 for an orientation meeting in the Gold Activity Center at Kennedy Middle School from 6:00 – 7:30pm. During this orientation, we will provide information about the math course sequence at the middle school and answer questions you may have about your child's instructional programming. You will receive information about your child's specific math placement before the end of the year.

Sincerely,

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