

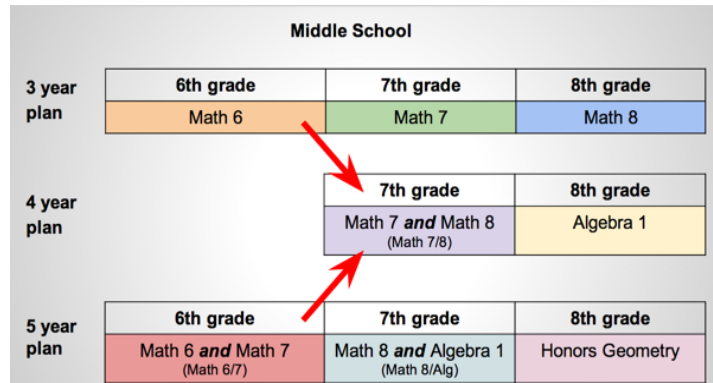
March 12, 2018

To the Parents/Guardians of Current 5th Graders:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information about our middle school math program, and to inform you of our math course pathways. We believe appropriately placing students is an important decision and we want you to be well informed of your child's math progress. Our goal is to provide you with multiple pieces of information regarding the district's math course options.

PUSD Math Pathways

There are multiple pathways for your child to be successful. A visual snapshot of the math pathways is included to the right (the full 6-12 grade pathway chart and course descriptions can be accessed on our website). *We believe all students can learn math at a high level. Math 6 will provide students with an enriching curriculum, which will provide students with a strong foundation in mathematics. However we realize a small percentage of students may be capable of taking a compressed model of both*



Math 6 and Math 7 in one year. Both courses lead to students being able to take Calculus in high school and allow students to strengthen their mathematical reasoning through engaging experiences.

The Placement Process

In April 2018, all 5th grade students will take an end-of-the-year assessment in their classroom at their school. No sign-up is required.

The purpose of the assessment is two-fold:

- To measure PUSD progress towards students learning the California State Standards of Mathematics;
- To place students into one of two Grade 6 math classes: Math 6 or Math 6/7

Please let your child's teacher know if you would like to opt your child out of this assessment. The content of the assessment will be exclusively 5th grade California State Standards math concepts. No 6th grade Math topics will be on the test. Since the test will only have 5th grade content that students have learned during the year, there is no imperative for students to specifically study for the test. ***In mid-May, 2018 a letter from Pleasanton Unified School District will be sent to parents with details of your student's placement.***

To see the topics that will be on the test, please read the Grade 5 mathematics curriculum on our website at: bit.ly/pleasantonmath-standards

The end-of-year placement assessment is composed of two parts, which will be taken by pencil and paper.

- Part 1: 30 *Multiple-choice questions* (Approximately no more than 90 minutes in length)
 - Many of the multiple-choice questions are "non-traditional" in which students may need to "select all that apply" in order to receive credit for the problem.

- Part 2: 3 Constructed response questions (Approximately no more than 45 minutes in length)

A scoring rubric will be used to determine each student's readiness for acceleration, with Part 2 questions scored by a committee of middle school math teachers.

All Grade 5 students whose scores indicate a readiness for acceleration will have the option to choose Math 6/7. This course compresses the entire curricula of Math 6 and Math 7 into one year. Those whose scores do not indicate that they are ready for this pathway will be placed in Math 6 to start the 2018-19 school year.

Things to Consider for Math Acceleration:

It is important your child is placed appropriately for success. We believe success is a journey, not a race to the highest level of math courses offered. We define student success as mastery of content, enthusiasm for the subject, and living a balanced life.

Some factors to consider regarding your child(ren)'s placement into Math 6 or Math 6/7:

- Students in Math 6 will learn all the California State Math standards for 6th grade. Students in Math 6/7 will learn all the math standards for 6th grade and 7th grade. Essentially, Math 6/7 represents two years' worth of mathematics in a single year.
- Students in Math 6 are generally limited to about 15 minutes of homework per night. Students in Math 6/7, however, are not subject to the district-maximum of 15 minutes of homework per night. It is likely that students in Math 6/7 will experience significantly more homework each night to accommodate the pace necessary to accelerate this course.
- Both courses - Math 6 and Math 6/7 - lead to students being able to take Calculus in high school.

Incoming 6th Grade Parent Night

School	Date	Time	Location
• Harvest Park Middle School	Thursday, May 3, 2018	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	GYM
• Pleasanton Middle School	Thursday, May 3, 2018	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	MPR
• Thomas Hart Middle School	Thursday, May 3, 2018	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	MPR

To learn more, please visit our PUSD Math Parent Resource website at bit.ly/pleasantonmath

Sincerely,

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