Ralston Middle School

CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

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Mrs. Sabrina Adler, *Principal*
Ms. Kelly Jorgenson, *Assistant Principal*
Mr. Patrick Wilson, *Assistant Principal*

Dear Sixth Grade Parents and Guardians of <<First Name>> <<Last Name>> ,

It has been a wonderful year of learning math here at Ralston, and we hope your child has enjoyed their first year of middle school! As your child prepares for seventh grade, we want to share how our Mathematics Department thoughtfully places students in the course that best meets their current learning needs. Our goal is to provide an appropriately challenging curriculum that builds a strong foundation in mathematics. Placement decisions are made with input from teachers at all levels, including future seventh-grade and even high-school math instructors (such as those from Carlmont). Based on years of data, we've found that students who are close to placement benchmarks tend to thrive when placed conservatively.

Please know that Ralston's 6–8 math pathway allows students multiple opportunities to move into more advanced courses during their time here. We use four key data points throughout the year. These include two criteria from your child's current math class and two nationally normed assessments. Each category contributes up to 3 points in our placement matrix.

Average from Semester 1 and Semester 2 Classroom Assessment Scores: When we take a chapter test or quiz, those scores are entered in Aeries. Please note this score is part of a child's grade in their math class; so, there is a correlation between their grade and assessment scores, but they are not the same. Assessment averages can be seen in Aeries *Progress Report* in the scores per category on the bottom. An average from both semesters between 93-100% earns 3 points; 80-92% earns 2 points, 70-79% earns 1 point. Typically, we'd expect students to earn 95% to move to Algebra. Please note that homework and participation scores, while important, are not placement criteria.

Average from Semester 1 and Semester 2 Midterm/Final Benchmark: These summative assessments are written by Ralston Teachers to address the content we have covered in the semester. They are multiple-choice assessments that help show how well students retain the material from the entire semester. An average of 90% or higher earns 3 points, 80% or higher earns 2 points, and 70% - 79% earns 1 point. We just took the S2 Final Benchmark last week. Scores were released to students' email and posted in Aeries.

Mathematics Assessment Collaborative MAC: This assessment is written by an outside agency and used in BRSSD in grades 2-8. It is based on 6th-grade content, but written to demand application skills and problem-solving. It is not multiple choice. All students had 2 days to complete the questions. This year we averaged Ralston quartiles with MAC published cut scores for the Bay Area. A score of 33+ earned 3 points, 26-32 earned 2 points, 20 to 25 earned 1 point, and lower than 20 earned 0 points. Students took the exam in March; scoring was completed in April.

6th Grade Summative Assessment: This is a multiple-choice exam that is norm-referenced. It is administered on the district assessment platform, Illuminate. This year, students had 1 class period only. A score of 27+ earned 3 points, 23-26 earned 2 points, 17 to 22 earned 1 point, and lower than 16 earned 0 points.

Here are your child's results in these measures.

Internal Ralston Assessments		External Norm-Referenced Assessments	
Average from S1 and S2 Classroom Assessment Scores %	Average from S1 Benchmark and S2 Benchmark (out of 30)	MAC 6th Grade Problem Solving (out of 40)	6th Grade Summative Assessment (out of 32)
<<Avg of S1 and S2>>	<<Total Midterm and Final Ave>>	<<MAC out of 40>>	<<Inspect Amount out of 32>>

Total scores of 9-11 qualify for 7AS. **Because Algebra placement is essentially skipping two years of math curriculum, it requires a score of 3 in every category, for a total of 12 points.**

Your child's math placement for 7th grade is: **<<Recommended Course placement>>**

We recognize that some students are taking extra math courses and summer school programs, but please know that these do not factor into placement decisions. You may notice that teacher recommendation is not one of the criteria; Ralston placement is data-based, we look closely at each case to ensure we're not overlooking placement due to a single point. Should any questions arise, please contact your child's current math teacher.

Please know that your child's teacher next year will be vigilantly monitoring all students' progress to gauge if their placement is appropriate. On that note, please keep in mind that June is the time to discuss placement decisions with your current teacher. In August, your child's new teacher does not yet know your child as a mathematician and will rely upon the former teacher's experience with the student and the data shared above.

Sincerely,

The 6th Grade Mathematics Team

Mr. David Ansnes Mrs. Maia Bromberg Mr. David Williamson Mr. Blake Kiernan