

## Middle School Math

Next year, we are implementing a change in our Middle School math program that will allow for placing our students at the level which is most helpful for each child to be successful and to be able to achieve at his or her highest potential. Instead of grades 6, 7, and 8, the math will be in levels.

- The first level will be considered as Middle School math. No readiness pretest is required.
- The second level is Pre-Algebra. Those incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are given the option of Pre-Algebra based on their 5<sup>th</sup> grade math performance, as well as incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who would like to be considered for Pre-Algebra, will be given a readiness pretest the first week of school to determine their placement.
- The third level is Algebra. Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have not already been placed in Algebra, have the opportunity to complete summer work on Khan Academy, and will be given a readiness pretest the first week of school to confirm their placement.

Potential concerns parents may have

-Does this present an issue for high school math placement?

No. Freshman year, those completing MS Math and Pre-Algebra only will be placed in Algebra. Those completing Algebra 1 successfully will be placed in Geometry.

-Is my child locked into the level in which they have been placed?

With motivated effort and hard work, a student may be moved. (See summer work option.)

Summer math assignment:

- It is optional this year.
- It will be recommended only to those students who are on the placement "fence". For example, an incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grader who struggled with Pre-Algebra but would still like to be considered for Algebra. This student would be encouraged to complete work on Khan Academy related to ratios, fractions, percents, and integers. The student would then take the pretest the first week of school. After placement, there will be a 4-week probationary period as well, so that you, the student and the school are confident the student is at the appropriate level.

Based on this year's performance and math final, it is recommended that \_\_\_\_\_ be placed in \_\_\_\_\_ for next year. If you feel that your student should be in \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_ will be required to complete a readiness pretest during the first week of school (August 30 – September 1) to demonstrate his or her preparedness for the class. To prepare for this pretest, we recommend that your student set up an account on Khan Academy and practice the following over the summer:

Pre-Algebra readiness-

Math facts

Fractions, decimals and operations with both

Writing and solving one-step equations

Algebra readiness-

Ratios

Percents

Fractions

Integers

Distributive property

Writing and solving multi-step equations

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Boutcher at [sboutcher@bcacademy.org](mailto:sboutcher@bcacademy.org) or myself at [kwright@bcacademy.org](mailto:kwright@bcacademy.org) with any questions.