

Accelerated Pathways in Mathematics

North Country Road Middle School

A Brief History

- The previous acceleration plan in Math included a traditional Math 6 and a more robust approach to Math 7, followed by the opportunity to challenge Algebra I in grade 8.
- Some elements of the Grade 8 Math curriculum were added to Math 7, while others were added the Algebra I curriculum, as well as the Geometry class in grade 9.

A Different Approach

- Our current concept includes implementing an accelerated course in grade 7 that serves as a more appropriate bridge to Algebra I.
- The philosophy used in the design of this course would allow the Math 7H course to include grade 7 and grade 8 material, providing a more appropriate foundation before moving into Math that involves a Regents.
- This course will “compact” the grades 7 and 8 Math curricula, which places demands on pace and rigor.
- This class will be “weighted” in comparison to other classes (1.05%)
 - A 90% = 94.5
 - A 80% = 84

Why Accelerate?

- The philosophy in reference to acceleration in Math is to provide opportunities in High School to challenge enrichment, which comes through rigorous Math courses. If students complete Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II by grade 10, they have two years to choose challenging Math courses (i.e. Pre Calculus, Calculus or AP Calculus, Finite Math, AP Statistics).
- Readiness – There are students that have shown mastery of the subject matter at their grade level. This provides them with material that they are “ready” for.

Selection Criteria

Students will be selected based upon their scores using the following criteria:

- 50% - Math 6 final grade
- 40% - Math 7H entrance exam
- 10% - Overall Grade Point Average in grade 6

Entrance Exam

All students will participate in the entrance exam.

- The exam was developed by our Math Department (Grades 6-8).
- The Exam will be administered during class during a double period on Thursday, June 6th.

Structure of Entrance Exam

- 26 questions in total
 - (18) Part I - Short Answer questions
 - (6) Part II - Constructed Response questions
 - (2) Part III - Multi step
- No Calculator for part I / Calculator use for parts II and III

Possible Pathways

- Student progress will be monitored throughout the year. Struggling students will be given the opportunity to withdraw and move to Math 7 during quarter one.
- Students that are successful in Math 7H will be placed in Algebra I in Grade eight.
- A student in Math 7 can be considered for Algebra based on their performance in Math 7, and additional material that they would need to become familiar with over the summer. Therefore, if you do not meet the criteria for Math 7H, there is still the possibility of challenging Algebra in grade 8.