

# Math Placement Information Night

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March 12, 2018/March 15, 2018

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of Math Curriculum Grades 6-9
- Criteria for Accelerated Math
- Characteristics of an Accelerated Student
- Questions

# Overview of the Grades 6-9

## Mathematics Curriculum

# Grade 6

- Both the Accelerated and Standard Mathematics Programs cover the same mathematical concepts
  - Closely follow MA Common Core State Standards
- Accelerated Math encompasses all of the Standard Math curriculum and:
  - Moves at a much faster pace
  - Provides a more challenging study of mathematical concepts
  - Includes an emphasis on solving complex word problems

# Grade 7

- Both the Accelerated and Standard Mathematics Programs focus on Pre-Algebra topics.
  - Closely follow MA Common Core State Standards
- Accelerated Math includes the Standard Math curriculum and:
  - Moves at a much faster pace
  - Focuses more on independent complex problem solving, giving less information to aid in solving
  - In-depth algebraic concepts and processes

# Grade 8

- Both the Accelerated and Standard Mathematics Programs expose students to Algebra 1
  - The standard level, Algebra 1 Part A, will cover the first part of Algebra 1 and will be completed in grade 9 in Algebra 1 Part B.
  - Algebra 1 Part B closely follows the MA Common Core State Standards
- Accelerated Math includes Algebra 1A & Algebra 1B
  - Moves at a much faster pace
  - Completes the entire Algebra 1 curriculum
  - Requires very independent learning strategies
  - Students may need to repeat Algebra 1B at WA

# Grade 9

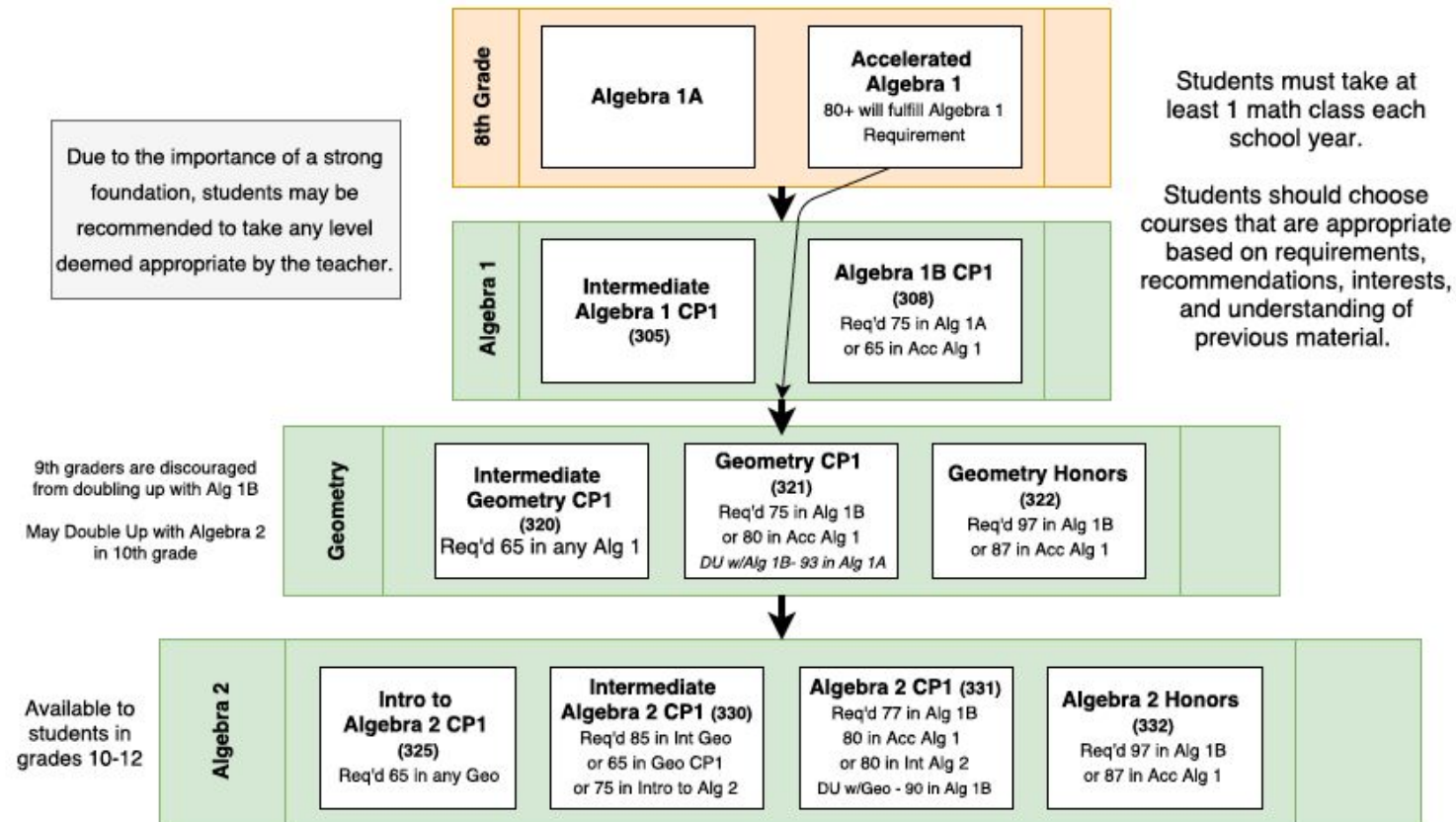
- Students will have 4 choices of courses
  - Intermediate Algebra 1
  - Algebra 1 Part B
  - Geometry CP1
  - Geometry Honors

It is important to have a solid foundation of Algebra 1 to be successful in all future courses.

# Westford Academy Math Course Sequence

## Foundational Courses

Students are required to take 1 course in each of the levels below



DU: Double Up - Doubling up is optional where indicated, not required.



## Advanced Coursework

Students must complete Foundational Courses at each level before being eligible to take any Advanced Courses.

Advanced Courses	<b>College Review w/Statistics CP1 (347)</b> Req'd 65 in any Alg 2	<b>Statistics CP1 (339)</b> Req'd 85 in Int Alg 2 or 70 in Alg 2 or 65 in Alg 2 H	<b>Trig &amp; Advanced Algebra CP1 (333)</b> Req'd 85 in Int Alg 2 or 73 in Alg 2 65 in Alg 2 H
	<b>Trig &amp; Pre-Calc CP1 (335)</b> Req'd 83 in Alg 2 or 65 in Alg 2 H	<b>Trig &amp; Pre-Calc Honors (336)</b> Req'd 97 in Alg 2 or 87 in Alg 2 H <b>AND 95 Geo or 83 Geo H</b>	<b>Advanced Quantitative Reasoning CP1 (334)</b> Req'd 65 in any Alg 2

Beyond Advanced Courses	<b>Intro to Calculus CP1 (341)</b> Req'd 87 in Trig & Adv Alg or 65 in any Trig&Pre-Calc	<b>Calculus Honors (343)</b> Req'd 88 in Trig&Pre-Calc or 77 in Trig&Pre-Calc H
	<b>AP Calculus AB (344)</b> Req'd 95 in Trig&Pre-Calc or 85 in Trig&Pre-Calc H	<b>AP Calculus BC (345)</b> Req'd 90 in Trig&Pre-Calc H

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# Criteria for Entrance into Accelerated Mathematics Grades 6-8

# Criteria for Accelerated Math

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5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>

- A rating of 3 or 4 on SBRC, term 3
- Fluency test score of 90% or greater

And **2** out of 3:

- Benchmarks (Mid Year and End of Year) average 90% or greater
- Study Habits/Skills Rubric 20 points or greater
- Grade 4 MCAS Level 5

# Study Habits/Skills Rubric (all grades)

- Based on five areas:
  - Learning Style
  - Work Habits
  - Ability to grasp concepts and skills
  - Ability to retain concepts and skills
  - Ability to work at an accelerated pace\*  
\*(counts twice)

# Criteria for Accelerated Math

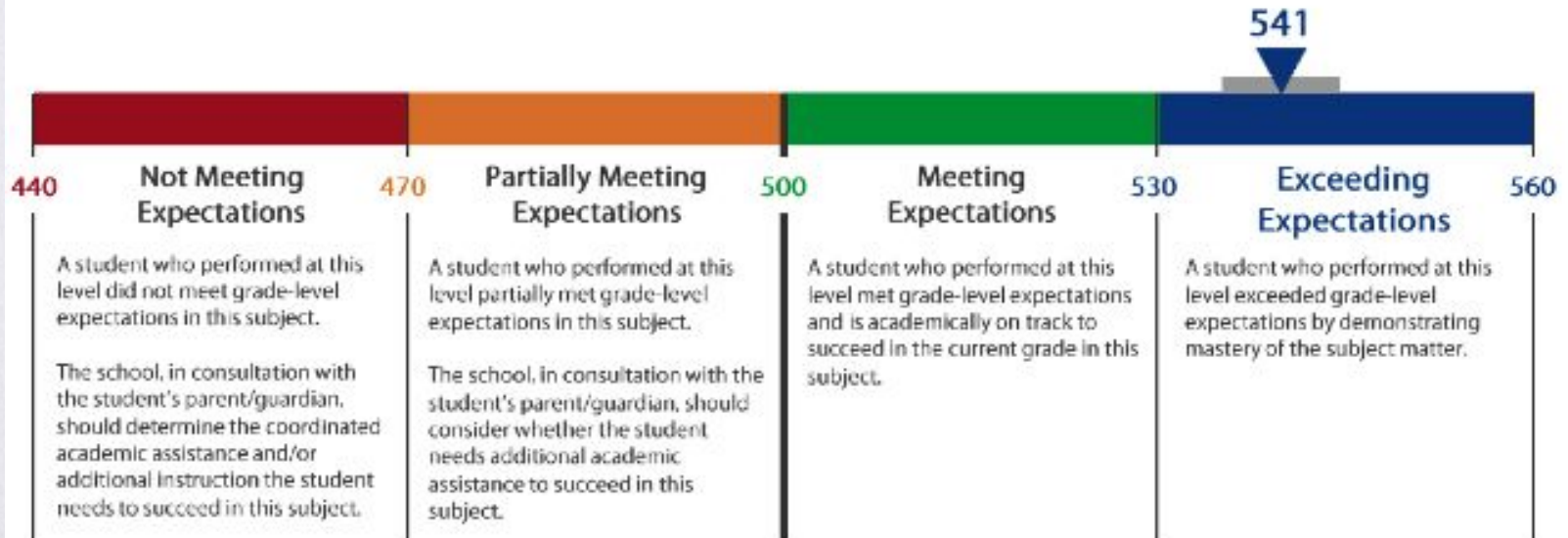
- Entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Grade average (first 2 trimesters) 30%
  - Number Sense Skills Test 25%
  - Algebraic Reasoning Test 25%
  - Study Habits/Skills Rubric 10%
  - Previous year's MCAS results 10%

**Minimum Composite Score 85**

**Current Standard Students need a 90% class average to be eligible to take placement tests**

Your Child's Achievement Level: **Exceeding Expectations**

Your Child's Score: **541**



**MCAS Scores are included as a percentage of the range of possible points.**

**Formula:  $(\text{Score}-440)/120$**

# Example Student:

Criteria	Student A	Percent Weight	Score
Grade average from 1 <sup>st</sup> two trimesters	92	30%	27.6
Algebra Placement Test	90	25%	22.5
Number Sense Placement Test	95	25%	23.75
Study Habits/Skills Rubric	95	10%	9.5
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade MCAS	541 = 84	10%	8.4
<b>Total</b>			<b>91.75</b>

**Minimum Composite Score**

**85**

# Characteristics of Students Who Succeed in Accelerated Programs

- Students complete assessments in a timely manner utilizing efficient strategies.
- Students are able to apply skills and concepts to new and non-routine situations.
- Students are independent and self-motivated learners.
- Students transition easily and maintain focus on learning experiences without prompting.



# Characteristics of Students Who Succeed in Accelerated Programs

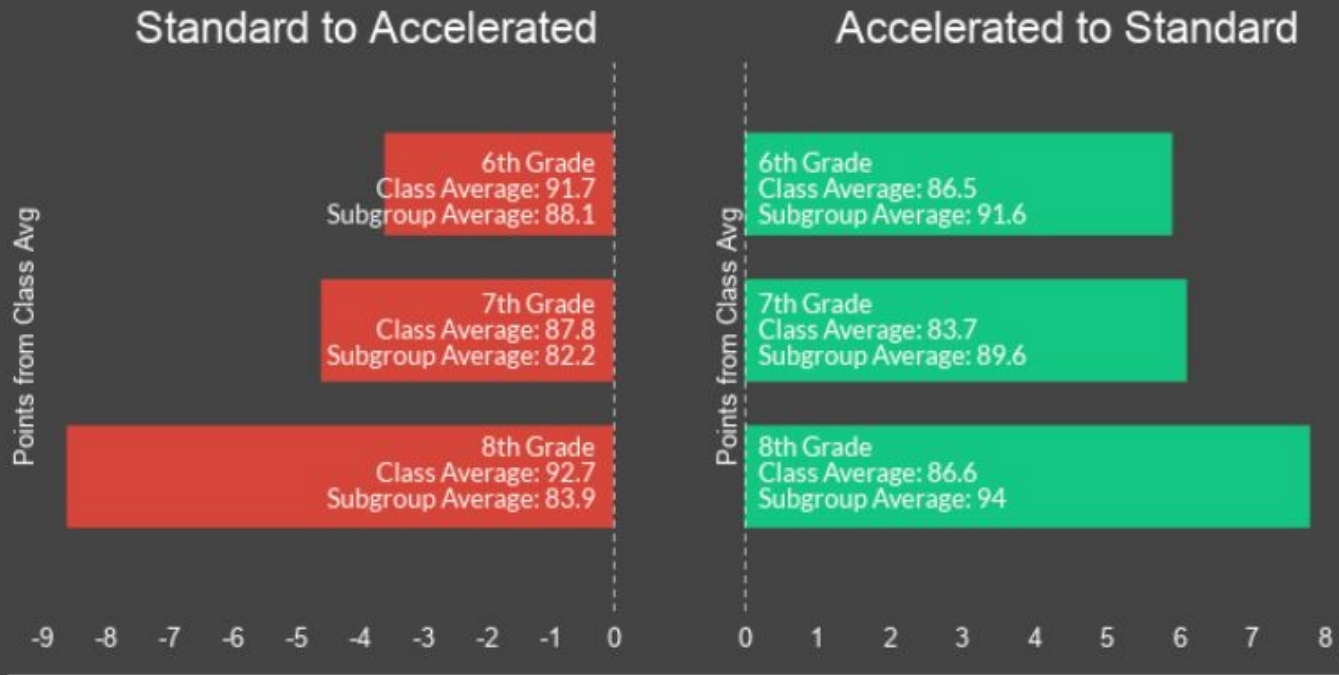
- Students have the ability to grasp new concepts at a rigorous pace without intervention
- Students are actively engaged in classroom activities and discussions
- Students complete homework independently and thoroughly in an appropriate amount of time.
- Students are receptive to constructive feedback.

# Characteristics of Students Who Succeed in Accelerated Programs

- Students make efficient and effective use of class time.
- Students independently seek clarification when necessary.
- Students complete assignments according to teacher's directions.
- Students maintain recommended grade prerequisite (high school)

# Student Progress after Math Class Level Change

Measured at Term 1 Report Cards



# Supporting Students Moving into Accelerated

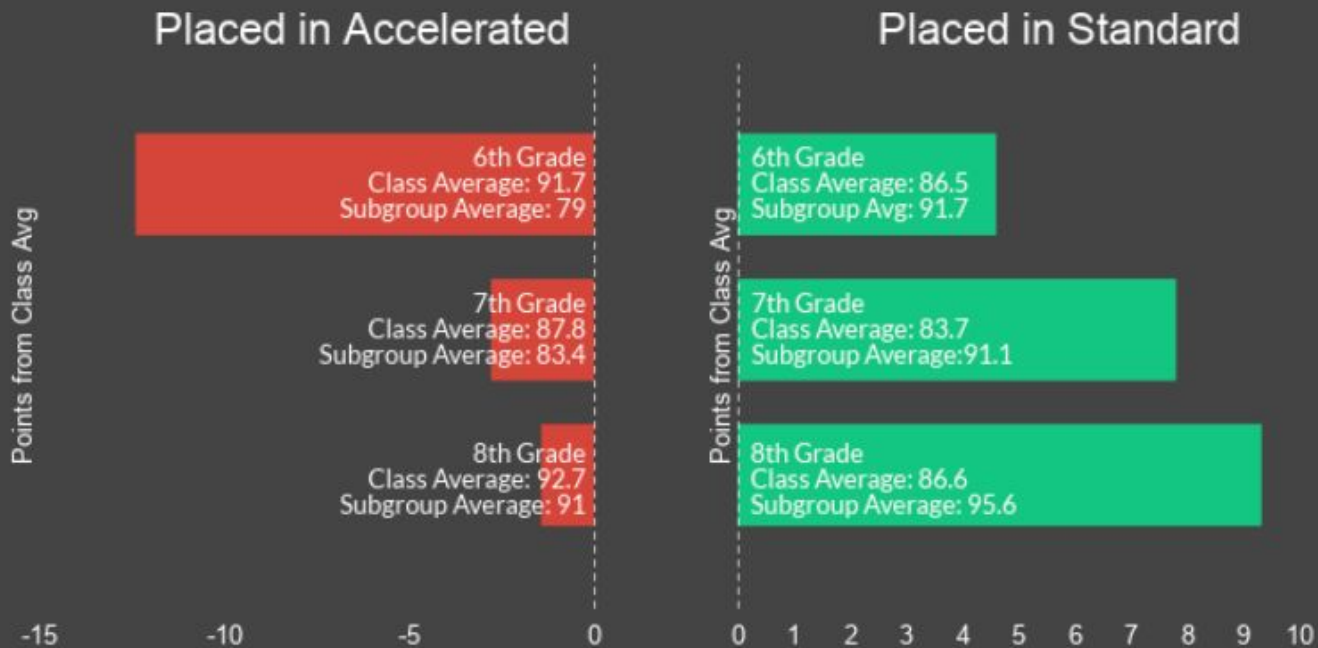
Challenges identified by parents and students:

- Change of pace
- Lack of review when starting new concepts
- Minimal review before assessments
- Need for proactive independent review and study
- No extra time on assessments
- Lack of “steps” in questions
- Emphasis on procedure rather than the “right” answer

Consistent support at home, routine study habits, and consistent review can help make this transition successful.

# Student Progress after Placement Retest

Measured at Term 1 Report Cards



# Grade 5 Placement Timeline

- 6/1-6/5: Letters sent home
- 6/13: Requests for retest due
- Retakes
  - During the last week of school
  - In your child's school
  - After school

# Grades 6 and 7 Placement Timeline

- 4/5 - Letters sent home
- 4/12 - Opt-Out or Consent to Test signatures due to Teachers
- 4/24 - 4/26 - Skills Tests Administered
  
- 5/11 - Placement letters sent home
- 5/25 - Requests to Retest Due

Retests will be the first week of June after school. Dates, locations, and details will be sent in placement letters.

All deadlines are firm. No exceptions will be made.

# Questions?

WHAT DID THE ZERO SAY TO THE 8?

