**YOUR SCHOOL LETTERHEAD**

[insert date]

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may already know, the majority of students in middle school are programmed for the College and Career Math Pathway courses (CC Math 6, CC Math 7 or CC Math 8). This is in alignment with the progression of skills and knowledge that is rigorous and designed to provide a strong foundation for success in the new, more advanced Algebra I courses that will typically be taken by most students in the ninth grade.

The Los Angeles Unified School District recognizes that some students are able to progress in their mathematical learning at a faster pace. In recognition of this, and in alignment with the Common Core, students are given the opportunity to accelerate their mathematics coursework in sixth and seventh grades, and again in high school.

# **Accelerated Pathway and Highly Accelerated Pathway**

Students completing grade six who demonstrate advanced skills in mathematics may be eligible for placement into the Accelerated Mathematics Pathway beginning in grade seven, or into the Highly Accelerated Mathematics Pathway beginning in grade six. Both of these pathways aim to advance math students who show strong mathematics conceptual understanding, knowledge of procedural skills, fluency, and ability to apply mathematics in a real world context.

*Accelerated Mathematics Pathway*

In the Accelerated Pathway, three years of math are combined into two math courses: Accelerated CC Math 7 and Accelerated CC Algebra 1. Standards are not cut or skipped but are “compacted” requiring students to learn at a faster pace. Recommendation for placement into the Accelerated Mathematics Pathway is based on a student’s previous marks in mathematics and Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment score.

*Highly Accelerated Mathematics Pathway*

The Highly Accelerated Pathway is intended for the highest achieving students in mathematics.

This pathway begins in grade 6 and combines five years of mathematics into three years: Highly Accelerated CC Math 6/7, Highly Accelerated CC Math 8/Algebra 1, and CC Geometry. As with the Accelerated Pathway, standards are not cut or skipped, they are “compacted”. Students will be identified as eligible for the placement test based on his/her 5th grade marks in mathematics and their score on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment.

Students will be placed into the Highly Accelerated Pathway only upon meeting the placement criteria and with parent approval. The Highly Accelerated Mathematics Pathway is a highly specialized program enrolling only a very small percentage of students districtwide; therefore, not all schools offer this pathway.

The Accelerated Mathematics Pathway and the Highly Accelerated Mathematics Pathway from grade 6 to grade 12 are shown below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade Level** | **Grade 6** | **Grade 7** | **Grade 8** | **Grade 9** | **Grade 10** | **Grade 11** | **Grade 12** |
| Accelerated Pathway | CC Math 6 | Accelerated Math 7 | Accelerated CC Algebra 1 | CC Geometry | CC Algebra 2 | Precalculus | AP  Calculus |
| Highly  Accelerated Pathway | Highly  Accelerated Math 6/7 | Highly  Accelerated Math  8/Algebra 1 | CC Geometry | CC Algebra 2 | Precalculus | AP  Calculus | 4th Math Course |

Students will have additional opportunities to accelerate in high school. Some options are shown below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade Level** | **Grade 8** | **Grade 9** | **Grade 10** | **Grade 11** | **Grade 12** |
| High School Acceleration Option 1 | CC Math 8 | CC Algebra 1 and  CC Geometry  *(concurrent)* | CC Algebra 2 | Precalculus | AP Calculus |
| High School Acceleration Option 2 | CC Math 8 | CC Algebra 1 | CC Geometry | Honors Advanced Math | AP Calculus |

Highlight indicates Acceleration Points.

# **Continued Success and Enrollment in an Accelerated Pathway**

Compacted accelerated courses are extremely rigorous, and students must demonstrate continued academic success in these courses throughout the school year as a condition for continued enrollment in the Accelerated or Highly Accelerated sequences. If a student earns less than a “B” in the semester course, the child’s placement may be adjusted.

Students in the compacted accelerated pathways must also demonstrate success at the end of each school year in order to continue in that pathway. Enrollment in the next course in the sequence is determined by a combination of the student’s scores on placement tests, Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments and grades.