

Course Proposal

Proposed Course: Accelerated Math
Grade Levels: 5-6
School: Jefferson School, Burnet Middle School, Kawameeh Middle School

Description

Accelerated Math courses will be implemented in grades 5-6 to offer opportunities for students who excel in math to take Algebra in grade 8 and go on to further advanced mathematics courses in high school. The program was piloted for Grade 7 in the 2013-14 school year.

Details

Each Accelerated Math course will cover the entire curriculum for the grade level over the course of the first three marking periods. The final marking period will be devoted to topics in the curriculum for the following grade level.

For example, Accelerated Math 6 will cover the entire Math 6 curriculum in the first three marking periods. The fourth marking period would include topics from 7th grade Mathematics.

Purpose

The purpose of this change is to:

1. Challenge students who excel in math in grades 5-6 with a curriculum that is taught at a faster pace and includes elements of the curriculum for the following year.
2. Encourage more students to take Algebra I in grade 8, which is a standard on the New Jersey School Performance Report.
3. Encourage students to take more advanced math courses in high school and beyond.

Effect on Staff

1. There should be no effect on staffing. Students who would currently be placed in the general math course would be switched into Accelerated Math. The same number of teachers would be necessary.

Course Implementation and Progression Chart

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Grade 5	Math 5	Math 5 <u>Acc Math 5</u>	Math 5 <u>Acc Math 5</u>
Grade 6	Math 6	Math 6 <u>Acc Math 6</u>	Math 6 <u>Acc Math 6</u>
Grade 7	Math 7 <u>Acc Math 7</u> Hon Pre-Algebra	Math 7 <u>Acc Math 7</u> Hon Pre-Algebra	Math 7 <u>Acc Math 7</u> Hon Pre-Algebra
Grade 8	Pre-Algebra Algebra I Hon Algebra	Pre-Algebra Algebra I Hon Algebra	Pre-Algebra Algebra I Hon Algebra

Criteria for Accelerated Math 5-6

Students will need to meet at least four of the following five criteria to be placed into Accelerated Math:

1. Final grade of A- or higher in current math class (B- or higher if currently in Accelerated Math)
2. Score of TBD on the GoMath "Getting Ready Test" (readiness predictor for the next grade)
3. NJASK score of Advanced Proficient
4. Teacher recommendation
5. End-of-Year Proficiency Test Score of B or higher

Students will also be responsible to complete a summer review packet that includes a complete summary of all topics learned in the previous grade level.

Cost

Extra textbooks for grades 6 and 7 will need to be purchased for use in the previous grade level's Accelerated Math course.

Description	Approximate Cost
Textbook price	Grade 5: \$80 x 200 = \$16,000 (consumables) Grade 6: \$80 x 100 = \$8,000 (class sets - texts)
Curriculum Writing	\$300 x 4 = \$1,200 (2 teams of 2 teachers)
Total	\$25,200

COURSE PROPOSAL

Proposed Course: Applications of Algebra II
School: UHS
Target date of Implementation: September 2014

Statement Describing Proposal

Under the new PARCC Assessments, students will now be taking Performance-Based and End-of-Course Assessments in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. There will be no more HSPA. Currently, the Math Applications 11 course prepares juniors for the HSPA. It is being proposed to eliminate Math Applications 11 and replace it with Applications of Algebra II. UHS already has a double period of Algebra I in place to support Algebra I students and a Geometry Applications course in place to support Geometry students.

Reasons for Proposal

- Give additional support to lower achieving students taking Algebra II
- Better prepare students for the PARCC Algebra II Assessments

Impact on Staff

Computer Lab access would be necessary at least twice a week to help remediate Algebra II topics using Compass Learning and other available programs. This may reduce the amount of open computer labs for use by the rest of the building.

Students in Math Applications 11 would be switched to other math courses. No new teachers would be needed. The 121 students currently enrolled in Math Applications 11 would be separated into the following courses:

Course	Number of Students
Applications of Algebra II	73
Geometry Applications	30
General Math 3	16
Algebra I only	2
Total	121

Projected Costs

Description	Cost
Workbooks	\$5,000
Curriculum Writing	\$600
Total	\$5,600

2014-2015 ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Full Year:

EN501 – Creative Writing: Grades 11 & 12

This course will consider the interrelatedness of the arts in terms of creative self-expression through the mediums of literature, music, film, and art. In particular, the students will analyze and appreciate the creative works of established writers and creative artists, resulting in the synthesis of their own original prose and poetry. Writers will create personal prose and poetry, children's stories such as fairy tales and fables, a formal short story, and a number of poems in both form and free verse. Creative Writing is available to juniors and seniors who are successful in required English courses.

EN502 – Journalism: Grades 10, 11, & 12

This course will begin building a foundation of necessary skills to write for publishing and broadcast. Journalistic "Inverted Pyramid" writing style will be practiced, as well as targeting interesting topics, seeking and interviewing sources, drafting articles and editing copy. The students will maintain a portfolio of their work, some of which may be published in the high school newspaper The Cannon. This course also will cover trends in professional mainstream media, the media's effect on its audiences, and its place among our American constitutional rights. Journalism is available to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are successful in required English courses.

EN350 – SAT Prep: Grade 11

The English portion of the SAT course is designed to help juniors prepare for the verbal and writing components of the SAT. The course includes intense study and practice in vocabulary development, sentence completion, critical reading, and writing.

The Mathematics portion of the College Study Skills course focuses on the number and reasoning skills required for the mathematics section of the SAT. A review of Algebraic and Geometric concepts is provided along with techniques needed to successfully complete the three testing sections in the allotted time.

2014-2015 ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Half Year:

EN503S – Public Speaking: Grades 10, 11, & 12

Public Speaking will provide students an opportunity to strengthen their skills in speaking in both small and large group settings. They will be introduced to public speaking as an important component of their academic, career, and social lives. Students will become more confident in speaking in front of others through the study, preparation, and delivery of various presentations of speeches, including informative, argumentative, ceremonial, and debate. Students will learn to choose speaking topics and adapt them for specific audiences, to research and support their ideas, and to benefit from listener feedback. They will study how to incorporate well-designed visual and multimedia aids in presentations and how to maintain a credible presence in the digital world.

EN504S – College Writing: Grades 11 & 12

This course will adequately prepare students for writing academic papers in college; specifically, such papers will incorporate MLA (Modern Language Association) and APA (American Psychological Association) style guidelines. As many standard English courses are primarily literature-based, writing an academic paper is simply one component of the course, but not the primary focus. Colleges and universities expect incoming freshmen to already know how to write academic papers that incorporate MLA and/or APA guidelines. This course will prepare students for college writing and support their current English coursework.

EN505S – The Graphic Novel: Grades 10, 11, & 12

The Graphic Novel elective will provide students with a different medium for written expression. The course will challenge students to learn the history, function, and execution of the graphic novel. The course will cover a series of graphic novels addressing global events like the Holocaust, middle-east crisis, and events closer to home like the attacks of September 11th. There will also be an explicit exploration of the medium as a journalistic tool. The graphic novels read in class will captivate students not only through the story line, but also through the visual impact of the work.

EN506S – Holocaust & Genocide Literature (SECOND ½ OF THE YEAR)

This course will fill the current void for a variety of literary, English-based elective courses. The course will provide a combination of multimedia, digital, literary, and informational sources allowing students to draw conclusions and analyze historical events through a literary perspective. Create an elective course that speaks to students' interest in a particular subject (Holocaust and genocide studies). This interest may be generated from students' exposure to the Holocaust in their tenth grade English or eleventh grade history classes, or from previous knowledge.

EN507S – Young Adult Literature: Grades 10, 11, & 12

Young Adult Literature will help students build an appreciation of literature and motivate students to become life-long readers through exposure to popular young adult fiction. Students will examine the role of young adult literature in relation to their culture and development. The course will link various young adult works to classic myths, themes, and stories from around the world. It will also give students the opportunity to use technology in literature related activities.