

Math and Science Acceleration: Making the Right Choice for Your Child

HOW STUDENTS ARE RECOMMENDED

Teachers make recommendations for students based on a number of factors. These recommendations are entered into the Parent Portal for families to access and review. Considerations include:

- Performance on NYS Assessments, when applicable
- Report card grades, test averages and comments
- Social and Emotional Development
- Your child's interest in the areas of math and science



WHAT IS OPEN ENROLLMENT?

Open enrollment is an option the school district provides to encourage all students to challenge themselves.

This brochure, we will give you some points to consider when making the decision to accelerate in math and/or science with your child.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD MAKE THE BEST DECISION?

To help in the decision making process, we have created some questions to help guide a conversation with your child.

- Do I have a passion for the subject area I am considering?
- Am I willing to put in the extra time that might be necessary to be successful?
- Am I self-motivated to complete my coursework?
- Do I have a sense of time management and the ability to prioritize?
- Does my extracurricular activities allow me the time to be successful in advanced coursework?

Please keep in the mind the following:

- Select challenging courses in subject areas which you feel confident that you will do well.
- Know your limits, you want to find a healthy balance that allows you to experience success in the academic, social and emotional development that occurs during adolescents.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

An email will be sent letting you know when you can view the teacher recommendations on the Parent Portal.

Review the questions listed in this brochure with your child and the course descriptions on the next page.

If you agree with the recommendation, there is nothing more you need to do.

If you have questions about the teacher recommendation:

- Have a conversation with your child's teacher.
- If you still have questions, or want to consider a change, reach out to your child's guidance counselor.



Note: Regardless of the choice your child makes in eighth grade, he/she will have the opportunity to enroll in AP level courses in both math and science at the high school. However, acceleration does allow students access to more AP courses in their junior and senior years.



MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grade 8 Math Overview:

Eighth grade mathematics focuses on number systems, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, statistics and probability. Students begin to grasp the concept of quantitative relationships. The eighth grade curriculum also requires students to analyze and transform two- and three-dimensional figures using distance, angle, similarity and congruence. Students enrolled in Grade 8 Math will take the New York State Mathematics Assessment and a final exam.

Common Core Algebra I Overview

This is a one-year acceleration that allows students to take their first year of high school mathematics in eighth grade. The course is designed to deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships. Students also engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions, factoring and completing the square. Students who enroll in this course will take the Algebra I Regents in June. The grade the student earns on the Regents exam will appear on his/her high school transcript. It is the first course in the three-year Regents mathematics sequence. Students continuing in this program will enter the accelerated math program at the high school.

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Grade 8 Science Overview

Eighth grade science focuses on Earth, Space, Ecology and the effects of human impacts on our environment. Topics of study in Grade 8 Science include: the rock cycle, density, and mineral properties. Students apply scientific principles and design methods to address human impact on the environment. Students enrolled in this course will take the New York State science assessment. This course provides a strong foundation for students preparing to take Earth Science the following year.

Earth Science Overview

This is a one-year acceleration that allows students to take their first high school science course in eighth grade. This course is designed to help students gain a new understanding of the world around them and the processes of change. Students will investigate the systems of the Earth and their interactions. Some topics covered are astronomy, energy, weather, oceanography, rocks and minerals. Students will take the Earth Science Regents in June. The grade the student earns on the Regents exam will appear on his/her high school transcript. Students enrolled in Earth Science will have a double period of science every other day to allow time to complete the required labs. Students continuing in this program will enter the accelerated science program at the high school.



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Elwood Middle School

Dr. Sapienza, Principal

Mrs. Valle, Assistant Principal

Ms. Lederer, School Counselor

Mr. Schwatz, School Counselor

(631) 266-5420