

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The CMS system is inclusive of all learners. Placements are made with thought and intention. Your son or daughter is placed in a class that best meets their academic, social, and emotional needs for the 2020-2021 school year. All teachers differentiate instruction according to readiness, learner profile, interests and flexible grouping will occur throughout the year to best meet your child's needs based on data.

The CMS Talent Development (TD) Catalyst Model is designed to serve gifted and advanced elementary learners (those who have not been "officially" identified) to best support their growth, academic achievement, and social and emotional needs. Gifted education and advanced instruction are shared responsibilities between TD Teachers and elementary classroom teachers. TD Teachers work closely with grade level teachers in collaborative planning sessions to provide materials, resources, strategies, and ideas to ensure the advanced learning needs of students are consistently met. They also work with students to provide rigorous, engaging instruction. All elementary schools have been provided with advanced, supplemental math curricular resources, including Project M3, Hands-On Equations, and Challenge Math and standards-aligned Advanced Math Alignment Documents created by Advanced Studies.

Elementary students are not placed in an advanced math course, however, they are provided with robust advanced math opportunities throughout the school year. These advanced math opportunities include....

- challenging math instruction, both in-person and/or within a remote learning environment
- differentiated instruction provided by the TD Teacher and/or classroom teacher
- enrichment and/or acceleration
- problem-based learning and/or project-based learning
- Math Olympiads

Current legislation (SL 2020-3) includes a provision for families to request the administration of the End of Grade (EOG) test for the mathematics grade in which the student was enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year, solely for an additional data point in determining advanced math needs for the 2020-2021 school year. For the legislation document, please visit the Ballantyne TD page

at <https://sites.google.com/cms.k12.nc.us/ballantyne-td-page/home>. If you would like to discuss advanced math opportunities provided at Ballantyne Elementary School, please contact Sarah McMurray, TD Catalyst Teacher, at [sarah.mcmurray@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:sarah.mcmurray@cms.k12.nc.us) or Andrew Butler, MCL Math Specialist, at [andrews.butler@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:andrews.butler@cms.k12.nc.us) by August 21, 2020.