# MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVANCED STUDIES

## Greenwich Public Schools
## Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Education

# Goals for Today

- Understand the Placement Process for Advanced Studies in the Middle School
- Understand the Advanced Studies Placement Process timeline (calendar)
- Understand the Advanced Studies Appeals Process

# *Middle School Mathematics*

Greenwich Public Schools District
12. The PK-8 pathway

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| Elementary Grades PK-5 | 6th Grade Mathematics | 7th Grade Mathematics | 8th Grade Mathematics |
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| **Curriculum defined by Standards and Program of Studies (POS) of Greenwich Public Schools**<br><br>**Content includes:**<br>• **Counting and Cardinality**<br>• **Operations and Algebraic Thinking**<br>• **Number & operations in Base Ten and Fractions**<br>• **Measurement and Data**<br>• **Geometry**<br>• **Problem Solving**<br>• **Developing viable mathematical arguments and critiquing the reasoning of the others** | **6th Grade Core (On Grade Level)**<br>(MIF Course 1 – Grade 6 Core) | **7th Grade Core (On Grade Level)**<br>(MIF Course 2 – Grade 7 Core) | **Pre-Algebra (On Grade Level)**<br>(MIF Course 3– Grade 8 Core) |
| | **6th Grade Accelerated**<br>(MIF Course 2 – Grade 7 Core) | **Pre-Algebra**<br>(MIF Course 3– Grade 8 Core) | **Algebra I**<br>(Aligned with HS Course) |
| **Advanced Math Curriculum delivered through ALP Program**<br>(MIF Course 1 – Grade 6 Core) | **6th Grade Pre-Algebra**<br>(MIF Course 3– Grade 8 Core) | **Algebra I**<br>(Aligned with HS Course) | **Geometry**<br>(Aligned with HS Course) |

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# Overview of Placement Process: Math

- The Winter Administration of the Math STAR assessment will be used for placement for grade 6 Math courses.
- The assessment will take place during math instructional time.
- The Winter STAR Reading Assessment will be used for placement.
- Grade 5 cumulative achievement and teacher recommendation will also be used for placement.

# Math Placement Timeline

- Math STAR administration window:  January 3-24, 2017.
- Building Advisory Committee Meetings will be scheduled from February 6-March 2, 2017.
- Grade 6 Math and Advanced Science Placement letters sent to parents through ASPEN on March 10, 2017.
- Appeals forms  can be submitted from March 27-April 24, 2017.
- Grade 6 Math and Advanced Science Appeals Meetings will be scheduled from April 25-May 19, 2017.
- Appeals Decision letters will be sent to parents through ASPEN on May 23, 2017.

# The Summer Bridge Program

- Alternative Route to Math 6A, Pre-Algebra 7, Algebra 8
- The Bridge Program is scheduled during normal Summer School hours.
- The Placement Test will be given on August 3, 2017.
- Registration instructions will be posted on the Summer School website.

# *Middle School Science*

# Advanced Science Grades 6-8

- NGSS High School Performance Standards
- Increased rigor and expectations
- Rigorous Scientific Research Component

*"Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge." – Carl Sagan*

# Overview of 6th Grade Advanced Science Placement Process

***All 5th grade students will be provided an opportunity to opt into Advanced Science. There will be a comprehensive review to determine final placement based upon the following criteria:***

- Cumulative Science report card grade (grade 5)
- Science Notebooks minimum rubric score of 26/30 points
- Teacher Recommendation
- Math Placement in Math 6A or Pre-Algebra
- Reading STAR Winter administration scores
- Nominations: Teachers, Students and Parents can nominate students

# Overview of Placement Process: Advanced Science 7 and 8

- All grade 6 and 7 students will participate in a Content Knowledge Assessment (Science placement assessment) this spring with an "opt-out" option.
- The purpose of the Assessment is for placement.
- Assessment will take place in the student's grade 6 and 7 science classroom or in an appropriate place as determined by the building administration.
- The Assessment will be delivered in STAR, an online format and will remain secure until the day of the test.
- Assessments will be administered on March 9 or 10, 2017; make up day on March 14, 2017.

# Middle School Advanced Learning Program Language Arts and Seminar

# ALP Language Arts

- Curriculum studied in greater depth through the rigor of lessons and differentiated activities.
- Curriculum accelerated to include above-grade level material when appropriate.
- Advanced pace of learning

*In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you." — Mortimer J. Adler*

# Overview of Placement Process: ALP Language Arts

- Multi-step process begins with a screening of students by teachers.
- Parents of students who have been recommended for evaluation for ALP Language Arts receive notification by January 6, 2017.
- Parents have the option to nominate a student for testing.
  - Forms available on the web site.
  - Due to the building by January 20th.
- Content Knowledge will be assessed using the STAR Reading Test administered between January 3 and 24, 2017.
- Recommended students take an additional Verbal Reasoning Test and Performance Task.
- Administration dates will be determined at the building level.

# *Middle School World Language*

# Overview of Placement Process: World Language

- The middle school placement process will begin with students in 5th grade as we determine the appropriate 6th grade World Language placement.
- Placement will be determined using the following three measures:
  - Transition Assessment (February, 2017)
  - AAPPL Assessment (ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Language) (March, 2017)
  - Average of four unit assessments (2016-2017)
    - Native Speakers participate in the DRA in their Native Language in place of AAPPL assessment.

# Advanced Studies Appeals Process

- The teacher, student or parent can make requests for an appeal by completing the appeals application available on the GPS District Website.
- Appeals applications must be received by **April 24, 2017** for grade 6 placement and **May 19, 2017** for grades 7 and 8 Advanced Science.
- The Appeals Committee consists of the building administration, science teachers, STEM Coordinator, World Language Coordinator and ALP Facilitator . Other representatives are invited in to support the process.
- ***Grade 6 Math, Advanced Science and World Language Appeals Meetings:*** April 25-May 19, 2017.
- ***Grades 7 and 8 Advanced Science Appeals Meetings:*** May 22-June 5, 2017.

# Students New to the District

***Math and Science:***

- Any students new to the district will participate in a placement process to determine appropriate placement into a Math and/ or Science class. Previous Math/Science placement in another school system does not guarantee placement into a particular Math or Science course in the Greenwich Middle Schools.

***ALP Language Arts:***

- Participation in a gifted program in another school district does not automatically qualify a student for placement in ALP courses in Greenwich. However, because another district's placement process may give us enough information to make a placement decision, parents should submit the relevant documentation to the district ALP office.
- Parents may choose to have their child tested. They should complete the form available online by Thursday, August 17, 2017. All students need to be pre-registered for the testing which will take place on August 21 and 22, 2017.

# Resources

- Grade 5 Common Core Standards for Mathematics
- Grade 6 Common Core Standards for Mathematics
- Grade 5 Common Core Standards for ELA
- Grade 6 Common Core Standards for ELA
- Smarter Balanced Released Items – Mathematics
- Smarter Balanced Released Items - ELA

# Contacts

***Middle School Mathematics:***

- Sheila Civale, District Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Coordinator

***Middle School Science:***

- Sheila Civale, District Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Coordinator

***Middle School ALP Language Arts and Seminar:***

- Bonnie O'Regan, District Advanced Learning Program Facilitator

***Middle School Language Arts:***

- Antoinette Fornshell, District Humanities Coordinator

***Middle School Social Studies:***

- Antoinette Fornshell, District Humanities Coordinator

***Middle School World Language:***

- Viviana Conner, District World Language Coordinator

***High School Mathematics:***

- Dana Tulotta, Folsom House Administrator

# Questions

# Math Course Sequence Guide 2017-18

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pre Algebra 8 | Alg/ Geo Course 1 | Alg / Geo Course 2 | Alg/ Geo Course 3 | Algebra 2B<br>Topics in Mathematics |
| | Extended Algebra | Geometry B | Algebra 2B | Discrete Math 1 and 2<br>Statistics 1 and 2<br>Topics in Mathematics |
| | Algebra 1 | Geometry A | Algebra 2A | Precalculus 1 and 2<br>Statistics 1 and 2<br>Discrete Math 1 and 2 |
| Algebra 8 | Geometry A | Algebra 2A | Precalculus 1 and 2 | Calculus and/or<br>AP Statistics |
| | Honors Geometry | Honors Algebra 2 | Honors Precalculus | AP Calculus AB<br>AP Calculus BC |
| Geometry 8 | Algebra 2A | Precalculus | Calculus<br>AP Statistics | AP Calculus AB<br>AP Statistics |
| | Honors Algebra 2 | Honors Precalculus | AP Calculus BC | Advanced Calculus and/or<br>AP Statistics |