

**SADDLE BROOK
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

ACCELERATED MATH PROGRAM

HANDBOOK

8th GRADE Algebra I

Procedures for:

**Qualifying
Screening
and
Exiting the Program**

Grade 8 Algebra I Program Description

The continuation in the accelerated program in math leads students to 8th Grade Algebra I. The course is designed to provide challenging opportunities that will vary from regular classroom instruction in the areas of depth, complexity, and pacing with an Algebra focus.

It provides a rigorous academic environment specifically designed to meet the intellectual, creative, social and emotional needs of high academic achieving students.

The goal of the program is to produce self-directed, life-long learners who will become productive citizens. Participation in the program will allow students to complete Algebra I in 8th grade and put students on pace to take AP Calculus during their senior year of High School.

QUALIFYING PROCEDURE **INCOMING GRADE 8**

QUALIFICATION is defined as those students to be considered as qualifying for inclusion in the program based on already being enrolled in the accelerated program in grade 7 or through recommendation. These are students who have been identified as having strong skills academically as well as strong analytical and study skills who have the ability to excel in the program.

Each grade 7 Teacher will provide information pertaining to each student enrolled in their class.

What does the process for assessing students look like?

- 1) **April 2016** - Every 7th grade teacher will provide a list of their students with an overall recommendation for continuation or inclusion in the accelerated program.
- 2) **April 2016** - Students will take a placement exam to measure competency of the skills necessary for students to be successful in Algebra I.
- 3) **April 2016** - Data will be collected, sorted, and screening summaries will be created to identify students that meet all program requirements.
- 4) **May 2016** - Students will be notified of continuation or inclusion in the program and supplied with the summer assignment for the course.

DETAILED SCREENING PROCEDURE

INCOMING GRADE 8

SCREENING is defined as the assessment of each student in order to facilitate identification and programming.

I. The following information will be gathered:

- A. Teacher Recommendation
- B. Placement Exam grade
- C. Report Card final average

II. Screening Summary is completed.

- A. Students must meet all three requirements for placement in 8th Grade Algebra I including satisfactory exam score, teacher recommendation and a sufficient final average (B+ or better Pre-Algebra or A- or better grade 7 average).
- B. All completed referrals are forwarded for administrative review. In a disputed decision between home and school, the administrative decision will prevail.

III. Notification of Parents and Students

Parents will receive written notification of eligibility into the program and signed permission must be returned to the school prior to the end of the year for the student to participate in the program.

IV. Summer Assignment

Students must fully complete the summer assignment for the beginning of the following school year in order to stay enrolled in the accelerated math program.

V. New Student Entrance

If a student enters the district in 8th grade having been identified and included in the previous district's accelerated math program, the above may be pre-empted if scores are comparable.

VI. Marking Period 1 of Accelerated Class

The Accelerated math teacher will conduct ongoing formal and informal assessments in class to ensure that each candidate's placement in the Accelerated program is the best fit for him/her. Any struggles or difficulty adjusting to the program will be communicated to the Middle School Guidance Counselor in addition to the parent by the teacher via phone calls, emails, progress reports, and/or student assignment reports. All communication should be documented on the Genesis "Conference" tab during the first marking period.

EXIT PROCEDURE

Criteria for **EXITING** the accelerated math program:

- A written request is made by either the parent or student that they no longer want to continue in the Accelerated program.
- Regular class attendance falls below acceptable levels as per the district attendance policy.
- Chronic behavior problems requiring administrative action or intervention.

A combination of the following behaviors:

- His/her current average in Math is a D or lower
- He/she fails to meet assignment deadlines and turns in work only when prompted by teacher
- His/her behavior interferes with the learning process
- He/she struggles to stay on task when asked to work independently
- He/she has difficulty working cooperatively with others
- Homework/class work/projects are poorly prepared or incomplete
- Has difficulty paying attention to procedures and details in class
- Failing tests/quizzes regularly
- Little evidence of skills/strategies taught during the Math unit of study
- Summer assignment was incomplete/never handed in after given extended time to complete it.

If placement in the Accelerated program is not the proper fit for a student, the teacher will follow the procedure set forth below:

- Teacher will discuss the possible exiting with the Middle School Guidance Counselor and Assistant Principal
- A meeting and/or phone call with the parent(s) will be scheduled to discuss the reasons their child will no longer continue in the Accelerated program.
- Student(s) will then be placed into an on-level classroom that will better suit his/her needs.