



TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear 8th Grade Students/ Parents/Guardians,

The following correspondence explains the math course options for the 8th grade students as they schedule their courses for 2016-2017 at Trinity High School. The restructuring and the changes in the math courses at the Trinity Middle School were proposed in 2013 and received approval from the board of directors in Policy 215.1 Subject Acceleration, ADOPTED: January 23, 2014 REVISED: December 4, 2014. The changes in curriculum and content were necessary to align with Common Core Content Standards.

The concept was align the middle school curriculum with the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards and to remove the algebra courses from the Trinity Middle School, thus transferring the teaching of algebra to the Trinity High School Staff. Various students and their parents/guardians desire the opportunity to accelerate and will be afforded the opportunity to challenge the student's capability by being able to complete the highest level math courses at Trinity High School. The opportunity does exist for students to take Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Pre-Calculus Honors and AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC during their four years at Trinity High School. However the students must take at least two math classes in a year or a second option for subject acceleration would entail the student successfully completing a program approved by the administration (digital or otherwise) and consequently demonstrating an 80% proficiency on the actual course final.

Acceleration Option 1 Double Up

Eighth grade students currently enrolled in Honors Math 8 intending on accelerating may schedule Algebra I CP for their freshman year. As sophomores the students may schedule Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra 2. As a junior the student would be able to schedule Honors Pre-Calculus. Following successful completion of Honors Pre-Calculus the student could enroll in AP Calculus AB. This option would allow students to complete the highest level of math courses which Trinity offers.

Acceleration Option 2 Aleks Program

Eighth grade students currently enrolled in Honors Math 8 intending on accelerating may enroll in the Aleks program offered by the Trinity Area School District. Aleks is a web-based program. The students would complete a prescriptive pre-test to access the student's areas of strength and to determine the tasks the student must pass to be successful. Following the successful completion of all of the required Aleks components, the student would be required to successfully pass the Trinity Area School District Algebra 1 Final Exam. If both criteria are met the student could enroll in the Honors

Algebra II at THS as a freshman. If you or your child is interested in Option 2 please contact your Trinity Middle School Counselor to gain access to the Aleks program. The Aleks course start date for your child would be **March 19, 2016**, and your child would need to complete the Aleks coursework and pass the THS Algebra 1 Final Exam, **by June 30, 2016**. This would allow your student to enroll in Honors Algebra 2 as a freshman. As a sophomore your student would schedule Honors Geometry. As a junior your student would be able to schedule Honors Pre-Calculus. Following successful completion of Honors Pre-Calculus the student could enroll in AP Calculus AB. This option would allow students to complete the highest level of math courses which Trinity offers.

Non-Accelerated 8th Grade students

If your 8th Grade student completed Honors Math 8 this year and does not wish to accelerate they will be scheduled into Algebra 1 College Prep at Trinity High School for their freshman year. They may choose to follow the college prep sequence throughout their career.

Accelerating 8th Grade student/parent concerns about scheduling for next year at THS.

Please address this issue with your student and the counselors will be available when scheduling takes place at the Trinity Middle School. The scheduling requests are important but there is no need to worry as we will be as flexible as possible.

Option 1 – Double Up as a 10th Grade Student in Honors Algebra 2 and Honors Geometry

Option 2 - You will need to contact a Trinity Middle School Counselor for access to the Aleks program and any additional information.

It is recommended that the students in Math 8 High Honors Algebra I/II complete a 6 week Aleks program to reinforce the Algebra 2 skills necessary for success in Honors Geometry at THS in the summer of 2016, prior to the students attending 9th Grade at Trinity High School.

Respectfully,



Donald Snoke
Assistant Superintendent of Schools