

THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EVERGREEN AVENUE AND CEDAR STREET
SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY 07076

September 2016

Dear Parents:

As a district, we strive to create the best academic environment for each student. One way that we achieve this goal is by providing various levels of instruction. We would like to inform you of the process for determining student placement for these levels in the middle schools.

What courses are leveled?

In the middle school, Mathematics is leveled in 7th and 8th grade; English/Language Arts is leveled in 8th grade. Students who meet certain criteria may be placed in an Honors course in one or both of these two subjects. The majority of students will be placed in regular Math 7, Math 8, and/or English 8.

How are placements determined?

Depending upon performance, it is possible that a student may be placed in a particular level in one subject and a different level in another. In order to make placements, the Mathematics and English/Language Arts Departments use a combination of the criteria below:

- Grades
- PARCC scores
- Student placement criteria rubrics
- District writing samples (English/Language arts)
- End-of-year assessments (Mathematics)
- Algebra readiness test: entering 7th grade only (Mathematics)

It is important to note that there is flexibility built into the placement process. After placements are communicated to parents and students, any inquiries may be forwarded to the content supervisor. Students are also continually assessed to determine if a change of placement is warranted during and between school years.

Is my student prepared to be successful an accelerated course?

Students in accelerated courses...

- Possess exceptional self-direction, initiative, and perseverance.
- Are highly organized and possess excellent time-management skills.
- Analyze, evaluate and synthesize more complex and in depth concepts.
- Are expected to complete more independent work at home.
- Will have shorter timelines for project completion.
- Will be expected to analyze more difficult texts, often independently.
- Are expected to make sophisticated connections between concepts.
- Are motivated to apply what they learn beyond the classroom.
- Have genuine interest in the subject and the work associated with it.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McKenna, Language Arts: emckenna@spfk12.org or (908) 889-8600 x3328
John Veninger, Mathematics: jveninger@spfk12.org or (908) 889-8600 x3319