



# Accelerated Program

John W. Garvy School 2019-2020

# History of the Accelerated Program

- ❖ Chicago Public Schools offers the Algebra I course in 8th grade as a course option.
  - The instructor must be certified to teach Algebra in order to offer the course to students.
  - The course culminates with an Algebra Exit Exam in May.
    - In CPS if students pass the exam, they qualify for Algebra II (depending on their exam score) **OR** Geometry as their first math class when they enter high school.
      - The high school graduation plan (or program of study in ASPEN) changes to “PreFresh Algebra” and students start with Geometry, continue into Algebra/Trig and a 3rd math class is required.
  - At Garvy, approximately 80-85% of our students pass the exam annually.
    - Students who do not pass the exam take Algebra I Freshman Year.

# How does this affect Accelerated at Garvy?

The ultimate goal of the Accelerated Program at Garvy School is to offer students the Algebra I course in 8th grade.

20 years ago students in grades 5 through 8 were in the accelerated program. 10 years ago the program changed to include only the 7th and 8th grades; it was deemed too early to track students.

Last school year, so many of our 5th graders scored astonishingly high on the Math portion of the NWEA test; it was decided to move the program to 6th grade for a year.

# How are students chosen for Accelerated?

If you are placed in accelerated in 6th grade, that does not mean you are automatically placed in accelerated in 7th or 8th grade. Same goes for 7th grade: If you are placed in accelerated in 7th grade, that does not mean you are automatically placed into accelerated in 8th.

## What is the criteria for being placed into accelerated?

- Performance on standardized assessments
- Deep understanding of mathematics concepts
- Strong mathematics performance in the previous grade
- Teacher recommendation
- Consistent attendance

## Students enrolled in the Accelerated Program are expected to:

- Complete all assignments, projects and assessments
- Have consistent attendance

## General Information:

- ★ Cutoff scores are determined annually using the Spring NWEA Math score. Cutoff scores are generally above the 80th %ile.
- ★ Reading scores are also taken into consideration, *but the math score is the determining factor*
- ★ There are 30 seats in the accelerated class.

# What is the difference between A, G & M ???

A = Accelerated

G = Gray

M = Maroon

The main objective of offering Accelerated classes is to offer students Algebra I in 8th grade.

Gray and Maroon are two classes of heterogeneously mixed students. There is no difference in the levels of these classes. These students receive the same curriculum and instruction as their accelerated peers, possibly at a different pace.

# How does this affect my child's curriculum?

## Core Content Programs: Language Arts, Science and Humanities

- All students have the same instructors
- Core Content **pacing** may differ
  - The speed of the content may be delivered at a different pace
- Curriculum/Standards remain the same
  - Texts (novels) may differ from class to class *and within* classes for Language Arts
    - Sections A, G and M may all read the same text or different texts within classes and among the grade level.

## Essentials Programs: Visual Art, Performing Art and Physical Education

- The curriculum remains the same as the other classes.

# How does this affect *math* instruction?

## In both 6th and 7th Grade:

- Students will receive exposure to concepts at an accelerated pace (i.e., move on to newer topics sooner than their peers)
- Students will be given more complex mathematical concepts in their class and homework
- Students will be expected to persevere in mathematics participation and work completion
- All students use the Connected Math Program Grade Level textbook (CMP3 Level 6 and 7)

## Students in all classes are expected to:

- Complete all assignments, projects and assessments
- Have consistent attendance

# How does this affect *math* instruction?

## In 8th Grade:

- Students will receive exposure to concepts at an accelerated pace - move on to newer topics sooner than their peers and students will be given more complex mathematical concepts in their class and homework
- Students in Accelerated will use the CPS approved Algebra I (Pearson) textbook in place of the CMP3 textbook
- Students in all 3 classes will have exposure to Algebraic concepts as part of their curriculum

## Students in all classes are expected to:

- Complete all assignments, projects and assessments
- Have consistent attendance

# What does this mean for high school selection?

Grades count - but so do test scores. The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is the district's standardized assessment. This assessment determines several factors:

1. Promotion in Grades 3, 6 & 8
2. Is taken into account for Selective Enrollment placement
3. Teacher and Principal Evaluation Metric
4. School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP) Metric



7th Grade NWEA scores in Reading and Math, grades in the four content areas of Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies and the Selective Enrollment Exam determine a student's placement in CPS Selective Enrollment and IB (International Baccalaureate) schools.

8th Grade NWEA scores and grades determine placement in classes in high school and remain a criterion in promotion.

6th Grade NWEA scores determine placement in 7th/8th grade Selective Enrollment schools (Taft, Lane, etc.)

# High School Programming

In high school, you need 3 math requirements to graduate. Those courses include: Algebra, Geometry and Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry; *4 credits are highly encouraged*

- If you want to go into a career such as engineering, medicine, business or computer science, you may need up to 6 math courses when applying to college. Options include taking math courses as electives junior/senior year or over summer break.

Algebra is the gateway to all math classes - and a solid math foundation is needed for the SAT which is taken Junior Year in high school.

We want to provide the opportunity for all Garvy students to accelerate mathematically - building a strong foundation comes first. Our math program focuses on all areas of math. 8th graders receive grade level curriculum to prepare for high school.

# Promotion Criteria

Grades 3, 6 & 8

District Wide Assessment Scores in both Reading and Math at or above the 24th percentile

**Final** Report Card Grades in Reading and Math of “C” or above

\*Promotion criteria for Students with Disabilities varies and English Learners (ELs) scores shall not be used for purposes for promotion if they receive grades of “C” or above in reading and math.

# Confidentiality

Please be kind and private about your child's acceptance into the accelerated program.

At this time, a third of students per grade level are placed, so it is important to be cognizant of others' feelings when asking if someone else's child was placed into the program. We do not want to cause tension among peers or parents.

Please discuss diplomacy with your child - it is a privilege, not a right, to be in the Accelerated Program.

Goal:  
100% of Garvy  
8th Graders to  
take Algebra I  
by 2025!

Using Growth Mindset,  
Resilience and Perseverance -  
ALL students can participate.



Thank you for  
being here!

If you have any other questions  
or concerns, please email Ms.  
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