



MILLBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear 7th Grade Parents & Guardians,

In January, we sent home via SchoolMessenger email a detailed accounting of the placement process for all courses including 8th-grade math (Pre-Algebra and Algebra). Those documents can be found on our website for your reference.

In order to assist us with determining the readiness and placement for each student for 8th-grade math, we have incorporated all of the following performance indicators into our placement rubric. The following performance indicators will be used to formulate a summary score that will determine your child's 8th-grade math placement:

- Average of all formal math assessments (Quizzes/Tests)
- MAP Score (Measurement of Academic Progress)
- Rubric for Academic Performance (Completed by the 7 grade Math Teacher)
- Algebra Readiness Assessment Score (Administered June 3rd in Math Class)

In order to help you better understand what the Algebra Readiness Assessment is, our 7th and 8th-grade math teachers have collaborated to provide the purpose and function of the assessment that will be given to their child(ren) on **Monday, June 3, 2019**, in their math class.

The Algebra Readiness Assessment is a test of abstract, quantitative reasoning and problem-solving consisting of a variety of questions that are based on content in 6th and 7th grade. The expectation is that the skills are then applied to real-life situations. The assessment requires the ability to read the problems carefully, analyze the information that is given, develop an approach, and solve the problem without a calculator. Since it is a test of mathematical reasoning, the actual problems are similar to the "extension" problems at the end of each Investigation in our Connected Math textbooks. Other examples of this type of reasoning include problems of the week that are more challenging and aim to extend students' skill set.

Students will not use calculators for this task. Fluency and accuracy in basic computational skills are essential to Algebra and all future course work. The 30-question assessment is designed for students to focus on problems that they feel most confident answering. The ultimate goal is for students to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

This assessment is designed to help gauge a student's readiness for Algebra in 8th grade. The best preparation for this assessment is done throughout the school year in a student's regular math class. Once again, the Algebra Readiness Assessment is a test of abstract, quantitative reasoning and problem-solving consisting of a variety of questions that are based on content in 6th and 7th grade and then applied to real-life situations.

Warm regards,

John Connolly
Principal
Millburn Middle School