



SUFFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

350 MOUNTAIN ROAD
SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06078
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Kenneth M. Smith, Principal

Gina D. Olearczyk, Assistant Principal

March 25, 2019

Dear SMS Parents and Guardians,

As winter fades into the background and we work our way into spring, the Suffield Middle School staff begins to focus on planning for the 2019-2020 school year.

Part of that process revolves around placing students in grades seven and eight in the appropriate math courses for the upcoming year. Our aim is to provide all students with the suitable instructional environment they need to facilitate their growth and success in mathematics. We offer grade-level courses to all our students; however, students who participate in the math placement process and meet the identified requirements will have the opportunity to engage in the Accelerated Math courses.

In order to achieve a complete sense of our students' abilities in mathematics, we will assess them through a process that has been developed over the past three years with the support of Central Office administrators and the approval of the Suffield Board of Education. This year, the assessment process will begin in early April and should be completed within a four-week period. Students who have met the established criteria (below) will then receive an invitation to the Accelerated Math course for the upcoming school year.

GRADE 6-8 MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Students must meet three (3) out of the following four (4) placement criteria. If a student meets two out of the four criteria, his or her name will be submitted to administration for further review upon arrival of the 2019 SBAC scores.

Description	Qualifications for 7 th -Grade & 8 th -Grade Accelerated Math Courses
Class average	Maintains a A- (or higher) average (for the year) by May 1, 2019
Performance Tasks (3)	Achieves an average score of 80% (or higher) on three PT assessments
Benchmark Placement Exam	Achieves a score of 80% (or higher) on the assessment
Basic Skills Assessment **	Achieves a score of 80% (or higher) on the assessment

**** All students in each grade participate in this assessment as part of the grade-level curricula**

As a practice, we allow all students to participate in this placement process. However, we recognize that the goal of being placed in the Accelerated Math course is not shared by all of our students and/or their parents.

Please complete the prepared form (provided at the end of this letter) if you do not want your child to be considered for an Accelerated Math course for the 2019-2020 school year. **Completed forms should be returned to the main office no later than Friday, April 5, 2019.**

If you have questions regarding the assessment process or the placement criteria, please contact the SMS Mathematics Coach, Esther Dattey, at edattey@suffield.org or (860)-668-3820 ext. 5824.

As always, we thank you for your continuous support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Smith
Principal

Esther Dattey
SMS Mathematics Coach

NON-PARTICIPATION FORM

I do not wish my child to participate in the Accelerated Math placement process for the 2019-2020 school year.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s) _____