Math Pathways – Parent Information Night

May 12, 2014 – Oakmont High School Theater

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

For parents of current fifth through ninth grade students

1. **Q. "For years the high school has asked K-8 grades to slow down math because a lot of kids aren't prepared or know the math skills well to be successful in 9th grade math. Given the changes, it seems we are asking them to speed up their learning of math. My concern is with the current 6/7/8th grade students. How do we help them as a parent to be successful and not feel demoralized by the new way of learning math?"**

   A. *Without question, the new accelerated math sequence asks a great deal from our students as they must cover three years of material in two years. The standard math sequence in grades 6/7/8 is more rigorous than the old sequence and is more closely aligned to what we expected our top performing math students to take in previous years. For that reason, choosing the accelerated pathway will require many of our students to access supplementary resources to support their studies. Fortunately, there are a number of tutorial resources that students and teachers can effectively use over the course of an instructional year. Listed below are some of the more popular ones:*

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1. *Current math adoption- math materials come with additional supports for students. Some of these supports include on line video tutorials and practice assessments. Your child should speak to his/her teacher to see what is available as each program offers different support.*

2. *Khan Academy - Khan Academy is a not-for-profit organization with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education for anyone anywhere. Khan Academy's materials and resources are available to you completely free of charge. Students can make use of our extensive library of content, including interactive challenges, assessments, and videos from any computer with access to the web. Coaches, parents, and teachers have unprecedented visibility into what their students are learning and doing on Khan Academy. http://www.khanacademy.org/*

3. *Learn Zillion – Like Khan Academy, Learn Zillion has thousands of resources to support students on specific instructional areas in mathematics. Students will need to sign up for a free account. http://learnzillion.com/*

We encourage each student to work with their teacher and identify which support resources would be best to meet their unique needs.

2. Q. What is the difference between Geometry and Integrated I for 8th graders?

A. *Integrated I curriculum includes both Algebra I and Geometry standards. Integrated II adds additional standards in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Probability/Statistics. Integrated III covers Geometry, Algebra II and Probability/Statistics.*

3. Q. At the end of the 8th grade, will a typical 8th grader learn as many substantive concepts of math as currently taught?

A. *Yes.*

4. Q. How will the districts access success with the new Integrated Math?

A. *Through multiple measures. How are the students performing in key district assessments? End of course grades? California's new assessment of student performance and progress? These three areas will be critically analyzed by all of the districts.*

5. Q. How does Integrated fit with Common Core 10 and up?

A. *Well. Students will be able to access higher math coursework, such as Calculus, in the same manner as they do currently.*

6. Q. If my son is in Integrated Math in the 8th grade, what would the next four years in high school be?

A. *Most likely, Integrated Math II, III, and two higher level math courses. Your child's career and/or college pathway would determine these courses.*

7. Q. Where can we see what is covered in Integrated I, II, and III?

A. *Go to the California Department of Education website and search for math I, II or III standards or use the provided link below:*
http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/draft2mathfwchapters.asp

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8. Q. How will middle school students be placed in the 6th grade? Once placed, what opportunity do they have to move up to advanced math?

A. *Students will be placed based on assessment results. Currently we use data from the students prior year end of year test, as well as data from beginning of the year assessments. Once placed, students would only be considered for movement to an advanced class if they are able to demonstrate proficiency in the standards leading to the advanced course, since it would not be in the best interest of a student to skip over relevant content/material.*

9. Q. How do I get my current 5th grader into 6th grade accelerated math?

A. *Assessment data will be used for placing students into the accelerated math classes. Students who meet the criteria for advancement will be offered the opportunity to participate in the advanced math class in 6th grade.*

10. Q. What will happen to current 7th graders in accelerated math now (Algebra I)?

A. *They will take Integrated I in 8th grade.*

11. Q. What is the rationale for 7th graders (going to 8th grade) to repeat a lot in Integrated I? Is that a side step rather than a step forward?

A. *Integrated I is not the same course as Algebra I. Integrated I is now the 9th grade on-grade level course with the new standards, so most of the content will be new to the students. Since the new standards are integrated, the content for each course will cover several strands and the new standards also provide a greater degree of rigor.*

12. Q. What year will Integrated I be offered to 8th graders?

A. *Next year Integrated I will be offered to 8th grade students who completed Algebra I as part of the accelerated pathway in 7th grade.*

13. Q. Will the new Math 8 course be just algebra, or will it be a combination of other math skills?

A. *All of the new courses are integrated courses, so they will cover concepts from several of math strands.*

14. Q. My 7th grade son, who is in advanced math this year, is under the impression that he will not be on an accelerated path next year because of the implementation of the new program next year. Is this true?

A. *No. Students who successfully completed the 7th grade advanced course this year (Algebra I) will take Integrated I as 8th grade students. Integrated I is the new 9th grade on-grade level course.*

15. Q. What test are the 5th grade students taking for the 6th grade placements?

A. *Next year 5th grade students will be placed using end-of-year assessment scores from 5th grade, as well as scores from a 6th grade assessment at the beginning of the year. In the future, we hope to be able to utilize assessments developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) so that the assessments for the accelerated pathway will be consistent for all of the districts. The SBAC assessments are not yet available to districts.*

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16. Q: Was the training for math voluntary? If yes, what percentage of teachers attended? What further training will be provided?

A: *The three elementary districts, Dry Creek, Eureka, and Roseville City sent all of their 7th and 8th grade math teachers to training this past school year with math experts from SAC State who facilitated an in depth study and review of the new 7th and 8th grade standards and the mathematics practices. The high school district and the elementary district teachers who will be teaching the Integrated Math I class also met this school year for training and consideration of instructional materials. Additional training for the Integrated Math I class using the newly adopted materials (Carnegie Math) will be offered again in the 2014-2015 school year.*

17. Q: How are test results measured? How will students be measured?

A: *It is not yet clearly outlined how student growth will be measured on the new state test which will be given in the 2014-2015 school year. At the local level, teacher teams across all four districts are currently meeting and will continue to meet next school year to develop and utilize common assessments for the Integrated Math I course. Expected student performance measures will be determined and articulated by their teacher teams.*

18. Q: Does a child have to qualify for advanced math each year? What happens if they don't qualify in a given year?

A: *At the elementary level, each district may handle this differently. However, if a child is struggling with math in the accelerated pathway, and has not benefitted from program support or teacher feedback, it is wise to make the move to the regular 8th grade course. While the regular 8th grade math course is also rigorous the pace is not accelerated thus allowing the student more time to revisit topics that may be challenging.*

19. Q: Can you please talk about how the students are being prepared for the changing expectations and increased rigor in math? Is this being discussed regularly with them?

A: *Across all four of our South Placer school districts, DCJESD, EUSD, RCSD, and RJUHSD, students are being prepared for the changing expectations and math rigor in a number of ways including the following.*

1. *Intensive teacher training has occurred over the past three years in order to provide them with the needed understanding of the mathematical shifts in practice, a solid knowledge base of what the new standards are asking our students to know and be able to do and the opportunity to begin that shift well in advance of when we were actually required to start teaching the new math standards.*
2. *Teachers have been preparing students by asking them to explain how they arrived at their answers as well as demonstrating other valid ways they can arrive at the correct response.*
3. *Students have been asked to solve more authentic math performance assessments that make the learning of math more meaningful and relevant.*
4. *Many students have had the chance to see the types of mathematical items on the state's practice test - Smarter Balanced Assessment given this past spring.*
5. *Many students have utilized technology to access various applications and programs that are based on the new mathematical standards.*

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Curriculum Sequencing

Where is pre-calculus and calculus in high school?

- Pre-calculus and calculus are summative (high level) math electives offered to students who have successfully fulfilled high school math courses, usually in the junior and senior years.

Will a student be taught all concepts necessary as pre-requisites to taking AP Calculus?

- Students will learn all concepts necessary as pre-requisites to taking AP Calculus as a result of the CC Integrated Math 1-2-3 sequence, per Common Core State Standards.

What comes after Integrated Math 3?

- After a student has successfully mastered CC Integrated Math 3, the student is eligible for summative (high level) math electives such as Pre-calculus, Probability and Statistics, Early Assessment Program Math (all meeting UC/CSU "c" requirements.

Will there be AP Math classes?

- The RJUHSD will continue to offer a full complement of Advanced Placement classes for students who successfully master the high school curriculum sequence for Common Core State Standards.

Does all this mean that typical math will be gone i.e. Alg 1, 2, Geo, Calc, Pre-cal? If not, can they opt for those instead of Integrated Math plans?

- The traditional, transitional math courses of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II will be transition to CC Integrated Math 1-2-3 over a three-year period, and will be phased out by 2016-2017.

Are these 4X4 classes, not year-long classes?

- All math courses are "full-term" courses lasting 18 weeks on the 4X4 master schedule.

Please describe the post Integrated Math 3 path- sum math, calculus, etc.

- The course sequence beyond the Common Core State Standards curriculum of Integrated Math 1-2-3 consists of options that begin with Pre-calculus and may culminate in the highest Calculus course offered in the RJUHSD, which is Calculus B-C.

Didn't the district implement Integrated Math a few years ago, and switch back to regular Algebra, Geo, etc? If so, why?

- The RJUHSD implemented a form of integrated math several years ago that was not supported by the California Standards Testing (CST/STAR), and was phased out in favor of the traditional math sequence that was tested by standardized testing. The Common Core SBAC test is an Integrated Math assessment.

If you do Math 1,2,3, how would you take Calc and Stats; unless you are in a block system in high school?

- RJUHSD is a 4X4 "block" master schedule will offers a total of 32 opportunities for full-term courses in a four year high school career.

Will the curriculum transition affect current high schoolers finishing sophomore year?

- The curriculum transition to CC Integrated Math pathway will take effect with the current frosh class (Class of 2018). Current sophomores will be eligible to complete the traditional, transitional sequence to graduate on time.

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Will you offer Integrated Math as a year-long class like you offer current math classes? i.e. algebra?

- The CC Integrated Math courses are currently offered at all RJUHSD schools as full-term (18-week) courses. There are no year-long math courses currently offered.

EAP/University

If a student takes Integrated Math 1 in 8th grade, what do they take in their junior and senior years?

- Students who successfully complete CC Integrated Math in 8th grade will be eligible for summative math elective courses upon completion of the CC Integrated Math pathway.

What is EAP?

- Early Assessment Program (EAP) is an assessment sponsored by the UC/CSU college system to determine college-readiness, and is offered as part of the 11th grade standardized math test.

Is EAP a class or a test/program? If test, then what is 4th year, cum. Math?

- The support course offered to seniors who are "conditionally-ready" for college is also called "EAP Senior Math."

How does Integrated Math look on college applications verses geometry, pre-cal, calculus, etc.? Are universities aware of this program and how are they valuing it in admissions?

- CC Integrated Math has been recognized as an official college-ready "math pathway" by colleges and universities around the world.

Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate

What is the difference between AP/IB math programs and Int. Math program?

- Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs are "advanced-level" programs designed to provide high school students with the rigor of college-level curriculum and practices in preparation for taking college courses. Students are eligible for AP/IB courses upon mastery of the CC Integrated Math pathway.

Is there any effect on SAT/PSAT on these Int. Math college placement? How do AP and IB classes "flow" into this new organization of classes?

- Students and parents can expect the SAT/PSAT to continue to have adjustments in assessments recently announced by the *College Board* in anticipation of the Common Core State Standards.

Misc.

For accelerated 8th graders taking integrated 1, can they choose to have their grade appear on their high school transcripts?

- School and district policies will continue to allow students who successfully master the curriculum and sequence of math pathways to request grades to be posted on high school transcripts.

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Will this class count as a high school class?

- CC Integrated Math pathway courses ARE high school math classes that meet the State, RJUHSD, and UC/CSU “c” graduation requirements.

Information provided by:

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