



ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Learn. Discover. Thrive.

May 20, 2019

Dear ACS families and stakeholders,

Asheville City Schools strives to provide foundational, rigorous and challenging instruction for all students with a continued focus on equity. The last two months, the Curriculum and Instruction department, middle school principals, and teachers at the middle and high school level delved deeply into historical math data. The purpose of this math data analysis and two parent meetings is to reconsider the most appropriate math course offerings for middle school students. Beyond the historical math data, the team considered feedback and suggestions from parents, families, students, and current ACS teachers. Furthermore, discussions also considered the cognitive readiness of students.

We greatly appreciate our board members, families, staff, and community stakeholders for participating in honest discussions and communication regarding the Math I in middle school.

We have decided that for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond, the accelerated Math I class will be a standard class offered to qualifying students beginning in eighth grade. That schedule allows students to take the highest level math courses in Asheville City Schools by 12th grade.

For rising seventh grade students who meet the rigorous qualification standards, Math I will be offered to them as an elective in seventh grade as a remote education course through North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS). Also, any ACS student may pursue an independent study of Math I through Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) by taking a North Carolina exam in Phase I and completing a product in Phase II. Students interested in this option should contact the school principal and counselor. The criteria for taking Math I as an elective in seventh grade is included with this communication.

Seventh-grade students who successfully complete Math I in 2018-2019 will be offered Math II during their eighth-grade year in 2019-2020.

Our goal is to better serve our students. We believe this to be an opportunity for all students to focus on core math skills and have the ability to apply those skills at deeper levels and in other academic areas. Please see our [PowerPoint presentation](#) for detailed information on our analysis and process.

To meet the needs of advanced math students, all seventh-grade core math classes will:

- integrate select eighth-grade math standards into seventh-grade instruction
- monitor student progress for additional enrichment opportunities
- provide rigorous instruction for deep conceptual understanding of math standards and applications

We appreciate the partnership we have with our parents and will continue to work together to ensure that all of our students will thrive.

Respectfully,

Dr. Dana Ayers
Chief Academic Officer

**Middle School Math Plan
2019-2020**

| NC Math 1 in Middle School | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | Criteria for Placement* | Course Delivery Format | Notes |
| 8th Grade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EOG Level 5 in 7th grade OR ● EOG Level 5 on two of the last three EOGs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face-to-face by 8th grade math teacher(s) ● NC Math 1 and 8th Grade Math will be compacted, meaning both sets of content standards will be taught in a single class period throughout the year | |
| 7th Grade | <p>Scored 97th percentile or higher on Math EOGs in 4th-6th grades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Average of 97th percentile on Math EOG score in 4th-6th grades ● Two of the past three years (4th-6th grade) Math EOG score of 97th percentile or higher | <p>NC Virtual Public School (NCVPS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Offered during an Elective period year-long ● NCVPS teacher is the teacher of record | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides students exposure to NC Math 1 and the 7th grade Math curriculum ● Students would take year-long NC Math 1 during one elective period (two elective periods are offered at both middle schools) while also taking 7th grade math |

**Students who meet the required criteria will be offered the opportunity for Advanced Math course in middle school; parents have the option of opting-out of the Advanced Math course.*

Implementation

| Action | Purpose | Expected Outcomes |
|--|--|---|
| Curriculum and Instruction Summer Math planning (August 2019) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To integrate select eighth grade math standards into seventh grade instruction ● To integrate select seventh grade math standards into sixth grade instruction ● Plan rigorous math instructional units | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers create math units integrating higher grade level standards into core instruction at each grade level ● Teachers create activities and lessons that are foundational and rigorous |
| Professional Development for teaching staff (August 2019 and quarterly throughout the year) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To coach teachers in implementing put newly created math units into practice in the classroom ● To allow teachers to collaborate and share best practices for differentiation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers share best practices for implementation that will impact student math growth and achievement ● Teachers continue to grow their capacity to differentiate math instruction for varied learning abilities in their classrooms |
| Professional Training in Foundations of Math (Summer and Fall 2019), Developing Mathematical Ideas and Open Up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To train K-6 math teachers on effective, research-based, core instructional math practices ● To train teachers on math practices that allow them to think through major ideas and guide students to develop those ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students gain a deeper conceptual understanding of math standards and applications ● Students learn to develop ideas and apply major math ideas/concepts |
| Implement newly created math units at the middle school level (2019/2020 school year) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide math instruction that is foundational, rigorous and challenging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students gain a deeper conceptual understanding of math standards and applications ● Students incorporate integrated math concepts in units of study for concrete understanding |