



Coronado Middle School

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Dear Parents of 5th Graders,

The Coronado Middle School Mathematics Department would like to welcome the incoming 5th graders to middle school for the 2017-2018 school year. In order to meet the rigorous California Mathematics Standards, we will be offering two sixth grade math courses; Math 6 and Math 6A.

The majority of incoming 6th graders will be placed in the Math 6 course. Taking this course will ensure students establish a solid foundation for success in higher level mathematics classes. Math 6 focuses on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division, and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. These standards have been established to optimize student opportunities to work at the highest level where the student can be **successful independently**. Please note: Math 6 and Math 6A students may have weekend homework.

California Standards for Mathematics **highly discourages acceleration before grade 9**. Multiple opportunities to accelerate will occur in high school. The reason for this is that the standards for middle school incorporate the **critical mathematical foundation essential for all students**. Accelerating and/or “skipping” to get to advanced courses as quickly as possible is not appropriate. Students taking the grade level sequence: Math 6, Math 7, and Math 8 will receive rigorous instruction while still being able to take AP Calculus in High School.

A compacted course, Math 6A, will be offered **for students who have demonstrated a very high level of procedural fluency and conceptual understanding**. Math 6A includes all of 6th grade standards and half of 7th grade standards. Students will move through the curriculum at an accelerated rate, dive deeper into the standards, and will be expected to explain and justify their mathematical reasoning at a higher level. In order to be successful in this course, students must have strong reading and writing skills, excellent organization, self-motivation, maturity, possess strong critical thinking skills, and be detail oriented.

CUSD values and requires use of multiple, current, objective measures as the basis for advancing students to the next recommended course in a math sequence for all secondary grades. Additionally, there are multiple checkpoints to ensure accurate student placement, especially at the beginning and end of a school year. Please be aware that students’ schedules may change during the first month of school after follow-up student placement assessments.

Minimum criteria to be considered for Math 6A are:

- 5th Grade MAP Reading RIT Score of 220 or above
- 5th Grade MAP Mathematics RIT Score of 240 or above
- 80% or above on the entry level assessment
- Advanced competency demonstrated in previous math course

Students meeting the above criteria and interested in taking Math 6A will be required to take an entry level assessment in Granzer Hall at CMS on **Tuesday, June 13th at 3:30 or Friday, June 16th at 10:00 am.**

We look forward to working with your student during the 2017-2018 school year.

Sincerely,

The CMS Mathematics Department

Karin Mellina, CMS Principal