

## To Prepare for 8<sup>th</sup> grade

The second semester of your student's 7<sup>th</sup> grade year is now under way. On behalf of our staff, I would like to express our appreciation at what wonderful students our 7<sup>th</sup> graders are. In late January, we will be enrolling students for next year.

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must take:

Math

English

Physical Science

U.S. History

P.E.

### **Math**

Generally speaking, most of our students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade take Algebra 1. However, some students who struggled with Pre-Algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade can take Math 8, which will help them be prepared for Algebra 1 in ninth grade.

The most significant academic decision in the enrollment process will be "which math should my student take?" Prior to Algebra 1, a student needs to master arithmetic and demonstrate the ability to grasp abstract concepts. Math from Algebra 1 upward is very sequential. Algebra 1 leads to Algebra 2, which leads to PreCalculus, etc.

The important thing to remember is that the student should not be in a class that is asking more of them than they can give. Nothing is more frustrating than being asked to do something you just can't do. When math becomes an issue of ability, rather than effort, we recommend you slow down and be successful in the class that you can thrive in. That said, students should expect to spend many hours per week outside of class studying math.

We look at the successful completion of the student's 7<sup>th</sup> grade math course to determine which course is appropriate for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We also look at SBAC scores to help make final decisions.

### **Junior High Electives:**

Students may also take one elective each semester if they wish. At this point, we plan on offering the following electives during the 5<sup>th</sup> period time slots: With the exception of Martial Arts and Dance, students may only take any of these electives one time.

Robotics and Engineering

Introduction to Art

Speech & Drama (fall semester only)

Taiko Drumming Ensemble

Dance (spring semester only)