

October 2017

Dear 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to give you information on upper level (Level-1) classes taken at middle school. Level-1 courses are more rigorous and in-depth in content, often move at a faster pace, include different types of assignments and may require additional outside reading. Level-1 classes are designed to challenge students beyond grade-level academic courses and prepare them for success in future advanced coursework. Beginning in sixth grade, Level-1 classes are offered in core content areas: reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies.

Level-1 Entry Criteria

A student may enter Level-1 classes in two ways:

- Earning a yearly average of 85 at the end of their 5<sup>th</sup>-grade year in the Level-1 subject(s) in which they desire to enroll, or
- Earning “Masters Grade Level” on the STAAR exam for the corresponding subject area.

Math Consideration

In middle school, Level-1 math curriculum is compacted, which means that a Level-1 6<sup>th</sup>-grade math student studies 6<sup>th</sup>-grade math content and part of the 7<sup>th</sup>-grade math content in one year. A 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Level-1 math student studies the remainder of the 7<sup>th</sup>-grade math content and almost all of the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade math content in one year. This allows 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Level-1 math students to complete 8<sup>th</sup>-grade math and Algebra I in grade 8. Because of the compacting of math curriculum, students wanting to enter Level-1 math after their 6<sup>th</sup>-grade year will be required to attend a math acceleration course in summer school. (See the chart below.)

6 <sup>th</sup> Math Level-1	100% of 6 <sup>th</sup> -grade content	40% of 7 <sup>th</sup> -grade content
7 <sup>th</sup> Math Level-1	60% of 7 <sup>th</sup> -grade content	80% of 8 <sup>th</sup> -grade content
8 <sup>th</sup> Math Level-1	20% of 8 <sup>th</sup> -grade content	100% of 9 <sup>th</sup> -grade content (Algebra I)

Gifted and Talented

Gifted and Talented students in middle school are clustered with Level-1 students in the subjects of language arts, math, and science. In order to enter the GT/Level-1 cluster class, a Gifted and Talented student must meet the Level-1 entry criteria.

End of the Third Nine-Weeks

At the end of the third nine-week grading period, letters will be sent to 5<sup>th</sup> graders who have a yearly average of 85 in progress in at least one core subject area. These are probationary letters only. The final yearly average will determine a student's Level-1 eligibility.

Regards,

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