

August 22, 2011

Dear Jr. High Families,

As you may be aware, we level our Mathematics courses for 7th and 8th graders at St. John the Baptist Catholic School. While Language Arts instruction can be differentiated with relative ease, Mathematics requires a smaller teacher-to-student ratio. Thus, there are two Mathematics courses offered for 7th grade: General Pre-Algebra and Accelerated Pre-Algebra and two Mathematics courses offered for 8th grade: General Algebra and Accelerated Algebra. General Math includes grade-level conceptual content and practice. Accelerated Math operates beyond general concept development, at a faster rate with greater depth.

The expectation of our partner schools is that our graduates enter high school with a solid foundation in Algebra I. All St. John graduates, regardless of their placement in Jr. High Mathematics, will complete Algebra I providing them with the best preparation for secondary education Mathematics.

Our Jr. High team has met to determine Mathematics course placement for the 11/12 school year. Our decisions were data-based, supported by a variety of sources including: standardized test scores, report cards, teacher input, homework habits and work patterns. Your child's teacher will inform you and your child of Math placement. Please understand that not one score was responsible for your child's placement.

It is important to note that the purpose of a leveled Math program is to meet students where they are in their development. We do not want them struggling, but we do not want them unchallenged.

We are enthusiastic about ways we can partner together to achieve optimal academic potential for your child and look forward to a wonderful year of academic and spiritual growth.

In Peace,

Nancy Jordan
Principal
St. John the Baptist Catholic School