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May 16, 2017

Dear students and parents of 6th Graders:

WAJ offers acceleration in science and math. If you are interested in applying for acceleration in these subjects next year, you may pick up an Acceleration Request Form in the guidance office. This form must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian by May 26, 2017. When determining approval for acceleration, the Acceleration Committee will use multiple measures which may include results of the grade-level STEM Acceleration Test, GPA, other standardized measurements of ability, social and emotional ability, behavioral record, attendance, and motivation. All applicants should plan on taking the STEM Acceleration Test on the following date:

6th graders going to 8th: June 15 / 8:15 – 10:15 / room 214 – If additional time is needed to finish the test, students may return on June 16 / 8:15-10:15 / room 214.

The STEM test will cover BOTH math and science and students must take both parts of the test.

Preparing for the STEM Test

Study sheets are posted on the school website. Sixth graders wishing to accelerate should use the study sheets as a list of topics to review for the STEM 6 exam. Students should conduct their own independent review of the topics using resources such as Castle Learning Online, Study Island Online, Khan Academy Online and intermediate level review books that are available through book stores. Mrs. Wawrzynek and Miss Li, science 7 teachers, recommend Barrons Grade 8 Review Book (ISBN-13: 978-0764134333) or the Big 8 Review Book (ISBN-10: 0935487719). Students should focus on those questions that address the living environment and NOT the physical setting. Mrs. Palumbo, Math 7 teacher, recommends Triumphlearning: Common Core Coach Mathematics 7 (ISBN 13: 978-1-61997-118-9) or Perfection Learning: Common Core Mathematics State Standards Grade 7 (ISBN 978-0-7891-8310-1.)

Should students have specific questions while conducting their independent review, Mrs. Wawrzynek (room 154), Miss Li (room 217), and Mrs. Palumbo (room 214) invite 6th grade students to stop by their classroom to make appointments for additional assistance. Ms. Palumbo, Miss Li, and Mrs. Wawrzynek will schedule appointments with students after school on Tues- Thurs from 2:45 to 3:15. Students should bring their review materials to these appointments after school.

If you have any questions concerning the acceleration procedures, you can contact your guidance counselor or Mrs. Hebert (ext. 1183). We look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best if you choose to continue the acceleration process.

Sincerely,

Tammy Hebert,
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction