

Math Committee Meeting  
December 3, 2014

Members: David Figuly, Debi DeArcos, Russ Osman-Bravard, Julie Bair, Jillian Waechter, Susan Noble, Claire Thibodeau, Brynn Bourke, and Monica Daugherty

1. Reviewed how no leveling is working currently for 3rd grade students.
  - sparks of ideas from strong math students helps in class
  - thinking is the focus, don't need to be leveled to share approaches
  - can challenge kids within the non-leveled class
  - non leveling allows for collaboration with other grade level teachers
2. Discussed change of mindset and not using "low, medium, high"
3. David reviewed what other middle schools are doing.
4. Seven Hills math department shared need to slow math down at younger grades. They have a shallow knowledge and gaps in learning.
5. We had a long discussion on the different pathways and their pros and cons. We looked at the pacing guides in the textbooks. We discussed the need for flexibility as we transition since we don't know how the changes will play out in the ability of students.
6. Currently in the high accelerated 6th grade class, acceleration involves two years in one year. The program exclude most of the activities.
7. The committee agreed to not level at third, fourth, and fifth grade starting next year.
8. Discussed how algebra is now woven into earlier grade levels, so there should be a strong understanding when they get into middles school.
9. The option of Integrated Algebra and Geometry in 8th grade came up.
10. If we are focusing on thinking skills instead of algorithms, it should blur the line between low and high math students.
11. There will be two more trainings ASAP ½ day each with other half collaboration. Focus will include a technology aspect.
12. Current 5th grade students grandfathered in.
13. Committee's initial recommendation: (no K-5 leveling)

Pathway 1	Pathway 2
6th	6th & ½ 7th
7th	½ 7th & 8th
8th	alg & geo concurrent or Integrated 1

Next steps:

- Committee members will gather input from unrepresented grade levels.
- The committee would like to revisit recommendation after gathering more input and having further time in the program before making final decision. Make a final decision in February or March on pathway.
- Schedule staff development before Christmas break.
- Check in on pilot program implementation.
- Parent meeting: share ideas with David. Participation encouraged.