

MacDonald Middle School
Mathematics Alternative Placement Procedures
Current 5th Graders
2021-2022

Dear Guardians and Students:

Students proceed from their current grade level math course to the following grade-level course. Current fifth graders will be placed in 6th Grade Math next school year. Likewise, current sixth graders will be placed in 7th Grade Math next school year. Families wishing an alternative math placement for their student may have their student take a placement test to demonstrate understanding of the next grade level math course. It is strongly recommended that students meet ALL of the following criteria for alternative placement testing eligibility:

- Have an A average on assessments in current math class.
- Have an established pattern of consistently completing and turning in all homework.

In addition, since alternative placement involves circumventing the suggested curriculum, students should also be able to:

- Maintain course pace.
- Manage any increase in homework and assessment frequency.
- Take responsibility not just for the completion of homework but also for the quality of learning. Verbal and written responses should consistently be articulate and thorough.

Process to take alternative placement assessment:

1. Complete the Google Form linked at the end of this letter **by Friday, May 13, 2022**. Students who attend Donley and Glencairn will take the assessment on Wednesday, May 18. Students who attend Green, Marble, and Whitehills will take the assessment on Thursday, May 19. The assessment will be given in the morning in rooms 134 and 166 at the middle school. **There will be no other testing dates.**
2. Students desiring to test out are required to demonstrate understanding of the Common Core State Standards for the grade/course of which they are testing out. These standards can be accessed on the State of Michigan website at www.corestandards.org/Math. The testing process is used to assess existing knowledge. It is not the responsibility of the student's current teacher to prepare students for this test as it assesses content beyond the scope of the current grade's curriculum.

Additional information, explanations, sample problems, and tutorials may be found at a multitude of websites including corestandards.org, khanacademy.org, purplemath.com, ixl.com, and many others.

3. If your student scores an 80% or higher on the assessment, they will be placed in the appropriate course. You will be notified in writing of your student's eligibility for alternative placement. However, **we will NOT release the actual assessment.**
4. Complete the following Assessment Request Application. Please note there is also a section for your student to fill out. This form may also be found online by going to the MMS page on the East Lansing website.

[Assessment Request Application](#)

The form must be submitted by the due date.

For any questions or concerns regarding the forms, please don't hesitate to contact me.

5. What to bring: Make sure you have two pencils, a good eraser, and a water bottle.
6. All students taking the placement test will be transported via Dean Transportation to and from their elementary building and MacDonald Middle School.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy Martin
MacDonald Middle School Principal