

Ron Thiele, Superintendent

February 26, 2018

Dear Incoming 7th Grade Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to explain the Issaquah School District's advanced and accelerated options for Language Arts, and Math. Your student will automatically be enrolled in the appropriate Science class, based on last year's self-select decision.

Issaquah School District offers advanced and/or accelerated options for 7th graders in English Language Arts and Math. Families interested in Advanced Language Arts, or the accelerated math path, should consider the following guidance.


Students who have demonstrated success in advanced courses have the following:

- excellent study habits and organizational skills.
- consistently high scores in math and reading on report cards and standardized tests.
- strong communication and reading skills for engaging with rigorous material.
- motivation, emotional readiness/maturity, perseverance and stamina for learning challenging material.
- ability to handle the increased rigor and vigorous pacing of the Compacted Pacing math pathway which condenses a year and a half of math into one year.
- desire to be an active participant in all aspects of the classroom, including discussions, group or individual projects, and labs.
- readiness to devote more time to studies outside of the school day. *Please consider your child's time commitments to all extra-curricular activities e.g., sports, music and club affiliations.*
- willingness to accept the possibility that grades could be lower than if student took the typical course sequence(s).
- strong work habits and initiative, and high desire to engage in learning

This is an important decision for students and families. In Language Arts, this decision will be made yearly. However, for math, once a student starts compacted pacing it is not possible to change course without repeating content at some point in time. Below is additional information to consider as you make your course selections.

Advanced Language Arts Readiness Criteria	CC7/8 Math Compacted Pacing Readiness Criteria
Report Card Grades in Language Arts: B+ or higher	Grades on CC6 Tests and Quizzes: 90% or higher
5 th Grade SBA in ELA: 2672 or higher	5 th Grade SBA in Math: 2685 or higher

Sincerely,



Emilie Hard
Assistant Superintendent
Teaching and Learning Services

Board of Directors

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