April 22, 2016

Ninth Grade Mathematics Acceleration

Both the California Department of Education and the El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) have established goals to increase student access and success in Advanced Placement courses. Therefore, the Mathematics Departments in the EDUHSD have developed an opportunity for acceleration based on independent study and assessment for those students not currently recommended for Geometry in the 9th grade. An unintended consequence of the implementation of the new California mathematics standards is that fewer 9th grade students are successfully completing and mastering the Algebra 1 standards in eighth grade. This impacts students’ opportunities to access higher level mathematics and science courses in high school.

Students may demonstrate mastery of Algebra 1 by examination during the summer following completion of 8th grade. The examination consists of approximately 70 short answer questions covering 22 essential Algebra 1 topics. Since mastery of Algebra 1 skills is essential for successful completion of Algebra 2 course work, the exam should ONLY be taken if the student has completed an Algebra 1 independent study program in its entirety. The online Kahn Academy provides interested students with a no cost independent study program: https://www.khanacademy.org/math/algebra

Students ARE NOT awarded high school academic credit for completion of Algebra 1 in middle school. However, students are placed into Geometry which affords them the opportunity to access Advanced Placement courses in the 12th grade year. Likewise, students who pass the Accelerated Placement Algebra 1 Assessment do not receive high school academic credit but are placed into Geometry, just as if they had successfully completed an Algebra 1 course in 8th grade.

It should be noted that for many professions and college pursuits it is not necessary to complete AP Calculus or AP Statistics in high school. Students who start high school in Algebra 1 have the opportunity to complete Pre-Calculus in the 12th grade year which, in and of itself, is sufficiently rigorous for most post-secondary pursuits.

Before encouraging students to access the independent study and assessment option, parents should weigh the stress and academic demands associated with such a request.

Testing Dates, Times: Tuesday, June 14th / 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 28th / 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Locations: Oak Ridge HS, Ponderosa HS, and Union Mine HS
Registration for both exam dates by 3:00 p.m. on June 10th
Check-in at each site: 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Information and Registration: Contact your high school counseling office:
El Dorado HS (530) 622-3634 ext. 1028 / Mrs. Nissa Martin: vmartin@eduhsd.net
Oak Ridge HS (916) 933-6980 ext. 3050 / Mr. Jon Pratt: jpratt@eduhsd.net
Ponderosa HS (530) 677-2281 ext. 2225 / Mr. James Spratling: jspratling@eduhsd.net
Union Mine HS (530) 621-4003 ext. 4215 / Mrs. Denise DeRosa: dderosa@eduhsd.net
April 22, 2016

Both the California Department of Education and the El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) have established goals to increase student access and success in Advanced Placement courses. However, an unintended consequence of the implementation of the new California mathematics standards is that fewer 9th grade students are successfully completing and mastering the Algebra 1 standards in eighth grade. This impacts students’ opportunities to access higher level mathematics and science courses in high school. In order to ensure qualified students have access to advanced placement math and science courses, the Mathematics Department at Ponderosa High School has developed an Accelerated Cohort Option as a pilot for the 2016-17 school year.

Students who are interested in completing both Algebra 1 and Geometry during the 9th grade year may enroll in this special course offering if they meet the Accelerated Cohort entrance requirements. Instead of taking one section of math in the 9th grade, students enroll in two sections of mathematics. During the fall semester students will complete Algebra 1, and during the spring semester students will complete Geometry.

### Sample Student Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Advanced English 1</td>
<td>Advanced English 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Algebra 1</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Algebra 1</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>ICT Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Life Fitness 1</td>
<td>Life Fitness 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are eligible for the Accelerated Cohort if they meet **ALL** of the following:

1. 8th grade teacher recommendation
2. Earned an “A” course mark in the 1st and 2nd trimester and currently on track to earn an “A” course mark at the end of the 3rd trimester
3. Parent approval

If a student meets all the criteria, they may be placed in the Accelerated Math Cohort.

It should be noted that for many professions and college pursuits it is not necessary to complete AP Calculus or AP Statistics in high school. Students who start high school in Algebra 1 have the opportunity to complete Pre-Calculus in the 12th grade year which, in and of itself, is sufficiently rigorous for most post-secondary pursuits. Before encouraging their student to double up in mathematics in the 9th grade year, parents should weigh the stress and academic demands associated with such a request.

For more information and **registration** for the Accelerated Cohort, please contact the Ponderosa High School counseling office at (530) 677-2281 ext. 2225 or Director of Guidance, James Spratling at jspratling@eduhsd.net.
2016-2017 ACCELERATED MATH COHORT APPLICATION

Student Name: ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ________________________________

Math Teacher Recommendation:  
☐ Yes  
☐ No

Math Teacher Signature: ________________________________

Math Grades in 8th Grade:

First Trimester: __________

Second Trimester: __________

Current Grade: __________

Space is limited to 33 students. Applications should be submitted to Ponderosa High School counseling office by May 10, 2016.

For more information about this option, please contact the Ponderosa High School counseling office at (530) 677-2281 ext. 2225 or Director of Guidance, James Spratling at jspratling@eduhsd.net