



February 4, 2014

Subject: High School/8th grade Common Core Math, 2014-15

To Our Middle School Parents

In August 2010, California, along with forty-four other states adopted the Common Core State Standards. The standards, which define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education, were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts across the nation to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce. Since their adoption in 2010, our district has been planning for the transition of the standards into the classroom.

For the 2013-14 school year, middle school math Course 1, Course 2, and Course 3 began aligning to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This transition included shifts in content, materials and classroom practices. The next phase of our implementation is transitioning the high schools to courses aligned with the CCSS. Traditionally our high school sequence, often started in 8th grade, has included Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2. The state has given districts the option to continue on this traditional pathway or to choose an integrated pathway, typically found in other countries. An Integrated curriculum is simply a different way to sequence the standards and in turn allows more connections within different math topics. Our district is moving forward with an integrated pathway, which we feel will provide a smoother transition out of middle school and better prepare our students for the new state assessments starting in the spring of 2015.

Our high school and middle school Integrated Math implementation will occur over the next three school years as follows:

School year	New common core math course
2014 – 15	Math 1 will replace Algebra 1 We will continue to offer Geometry and Algebra 2
2015 – 16	Math 2 will replace Geometry We will continue to offer Algebra 2
2016 – 17	Math 3 will replace Algebra 2 Full implementation of CCSS

For students who have already successfully completed Algebra 1, they will continue with the traditional pathway as we phase in our new courses. Integrated pathways are supported by the Board of Admissions for the UC system, and will therefore still meet college entrance requirements. For more information on Integrated Mathematics, you can visit your high school's webpage and look for the *Parent Handbook for the Integrated Pathway*.

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