



Spokane Public Schools
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Middle Level Accelerated

Spring 2012



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Accelerated at the Middle Level: *English, Accelerated Math, Algebra 1*

English

A middle level Accelerated English program will include an environment where students experience learning that is more cognitively complex than the general education offering; that is faster paced; and is characterized by greater depth of content. In this standards-based course, *SpringBoard* is the basic education instructional material offered in general education and accelerated classrooms for grades 7 and 8 English. *SpringBoard* is the College Board's default college preparation curriculum. Thus Accelerated English class sections are designed to extend and advance our most advanced literacy learners.

Mathematics

Accelerated Math

Middle level Accelerated Math has similar design characteristics as those found in middle level Accelerated English. The content is significantly faster paced and more compacted than the general education offering. Middle level Accelerated Math serves to prepare students for immediate entry into Algebra 1 the following year. Students have access to several math course offerings at the middle level including Middle School Math I, Middle School Math II, Accelerated Math, and Algebra 1. It is necessary to note that the basic education curriculum resource used in general education classrooms for Middle School Math I, II, and Accelerated Math is *Connected Math*. *Connected Math* is aligned with the College Readiness Standards. *Holt* is the curriculum resource used in Algebra 1.

Algebra 1

The fundamental purpose of Algebra 1 is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. Because a typical 6th grader moving directly into Algebra 1 will skip most of these 7th and 8th grade learning standards, criteria for entrance into Algebra 1 are highly rigorous. Teachers provide background information only as necessary to prepare students for upcoming topics, and not in the formalized manner that students would otherwise receive outside of an Algebra 1 course. It is important to note that Algebra 1, even when taken in 7th grade, is a high school credit bearing course which may be posted on the high school transcript upon student request. Additionally, there is a state assessment at the conclusion of the course, called an End-Of-Course exam, or EOC. Seventh grade Algebra students will also be required by the state to take the Washington State Measurement of Student Progress, or MSP, for 7th grade. Following a traditional trajectory, seventh grade students who successfully complete Algebra 1 would typically move on to Geometry in 8th grade.



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Criteria for Placement into Middle Level Accelerated Math

For a student to be identified for Middle Level Accelerated Math, the following criteria needs to be met:

Middle Level Accelerated Math Criteria:

- Achieve a score of 420 or higher on the 5th grade math *Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) state exam. Placement may be adjusted based on a 6th grade MSP math assessment, which typically arrive in August.
- Achieve a score of 219 or higher on the 6th grade **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) district math assessment
- Predominantly scores of 4s on the District Benchmark Assessments
- Predominantly scores of 4s on math content on report card
- Demonstrates work habits as indicated on the report card

Additionally, students placed in these courses will be most successful if they demonstrate the following work habits as indicated on the report card:

- Attends class at least 95% of the time
- Participation that promotes learning
- Completes assignments

Based on the criteria listed above, students meeting the criteria will be registered in Middle Level Accelerated Math.

**For students who have not met the above criteria, but choose to opt-in to the Accelerated Math course; please fill out the registration form below.*

Spokane Public Schools Opt-in Registration Form – Middle Level Accelerated Math
Submit completed form to the school office by March 30, 2012

Student's Full Name (please print): _____ School: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Student(s) Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s) or Guardian Name (please print): _____

Parent or Guardian Signature(s): _____ Date: _____



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Criteria for Placement into Middle Level Accelerated English

For a student to be identified for Middle Level Accelerated English, the following criteria needs to be met:

Middle Level Accelerated English Criteria:

- Achieve a score of 416 or higher on the 5th grade *Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) state reading exam. Placement may be adjusted based on a 6th grade MSP reading assessment, which typically arrive in August.
- Achieve a score of 219 or higher on the 6th grade **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) district reading district assessment
- Achieve a score of 13 on a 6th grade district persuasive writing sample
- Predominately scores of 4s on reading and writing content on report card
- Demonstrates work habits as indicated on the report card

Additionally, students placed in these courses will be most successful if they demonstrate the following work habits as indicated on the report card:

- Attends class at least 95% of the time
- Participation that promotes learning
- Completes assignments

Based on the criteria listed above, students meeting the criteria will be registered in Middle Level Accelerated English.

**For students who have not met the above criteria, but choose to opt-in to the Accelerated English course; please fill out the registration form below.*

Spokane Public Schools Opt-in Registration Form – Middle Level Accelerated English **Submit completed form to the school office by March 30, 2012**

Student's Full Name (please print): _____ School: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Student(s) Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s) or Guardian Name (please print): _____

Parent or Guardian Signature(s): _____ Date: _____



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Criteria for 7th Grade Placement into Algebra 1

For a student to be identified for Algebra 1, the following criteria needs to be met:

Algebra 1 Criteria:

- Achieve a score of 472 or higher on the 5th grade math **Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) state exam*. Placement may be adjusted based on a 6th grade MSP math assessment, which typically arrive in August.
- Achieve a score of 242 or higher on the 6th grade ***Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) district math assessment*
- Predominantly scores of 4s on the District Benchmark Assessments
- Predominantly scores of 4s on math content on report card
- Demonstrates work habits as indicated on the report card

Additionally, students placed in these courses will be most successful if they demonstrate the following work habits as indicated on the report card:

- Attends class at least 95% of the time
- Participation that promotes learning
- Completes assignments

Based on the criteria listed above, students meeting the criteria will be registered in Algebra 1.

Important to note:

- 1) There is no opt-in option for Algebra 1 for seventh grade.
- 2) A student can request high school credit by submitting a High School Credit for Eligible Courses Taken at Middle Level form 02-0043.



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Criteria for Continued Placement in Middle Level Accelerated Course Offerings

After a student is identified and enters the accelerated program in either Mathematics or English (or both) at grade 7 or grade 8, he or she will be required to produce academic products and exhibit work habits as indicated on report card.

Work Habits:

- ✓ *Attends class at least 95% of the time*
- ✓ *Participation that promotes learning*
- ✓ *Completes assignments*

Expectations Around Academic Work Products:

- ✓ *Demonstrates progress toward academic goals on assessments both formative and summative*
- ✓ *Demonstrates increasing factual knowledge and understanding of conceptual frameworks by creating work products, assignments and projects that evidence such understanding and knowledge*
- ✓ *Keeps pace with expected work production and knowledge accumulation*

High School Credit For Eligible Courses Taken at Middle Level



Students who take and receive a passing grade at middle level for high school courses may, upon the request of the parent and student, obtain high school credit (Spokane Public Schools Procedure 4410).

The credit may be requested by any student enrolled in eligible courses in Spokane Public Schools or another accredited school, and the student can receive high school credit for successful completion of the courses. This option also applies to any student enrolled in high school who took an acceptable course prior to attending high school.

If a credit is requested, the course and the grade received for the course become a permanent part of the student's transcript.

To receive high school credit for an eligible course, complete, sign, and return this form to your high school or middle school counselor. Please note: a student may access this credit any time prior to graduation. Non-district middle school transcripts MUST indicate that the course was high school equivalent.

Request to Receive High School Credit for Eligible Courses Taken at Middle Level

Student name: _____

Title of course successfully completed: _____

School where high school equivalent course was completed: _____

Date course completed: _____ Grade earned: 1st semester _____ 2nd semester _____

Grade verified by high school official: _____
Signature Date

Student Signature Date

Parent /Guardian Signature Date

Middle School Summer Reading Packet

Grade 7

Throughout your summer vacation, you will need to read one of the following books and complete the attached assignments. This summer work will be due in your Language Arts class on the first day of class.

Select one of the following for your summer reading assignment:



Hope Was Here

By Joan Bauer

When Hope and her aunt Addie move from New York to a small town in Wisconsin to run the Welcome Stairways Diner, she is not sure she'll fit in. Luckily, she does not have much time to dwell on it, what with life at the diner and the upcoming mayoral election. G.T., the owner of Welcome Stairways, has decided to run, even though he is very ill. Some think G.T. is crazy, but Hope sees the goodness and power in him.

Summary from www.scholastic.com



Freak the Mighty

By Rodman Philbrick

Meet Maxwell Kane, narrator of *Freak the Mighty*. He's a timid soul stuck in the body of a teenage giant with size 14 shoes. Haunted by a dark secret in his past, he hides out in his basement room, avoiding the world. But when a new kid moves in next door, Max's life changes forever. The two outcasts from the "normal" world team up to become "Freak the Mighty."

Summary from www.goodreads.com

Summer Reading Activities:

- Activity 1 : Predictions: Things to Come** *Using Text Clues to Predict – Chapter 1*
- Activity 2 : Double Entry Journal** *Analyzing the Choices Made by the Character*
- Activity 3 : Character Analysis Essay** *Compose an Essay*