



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

124 Willow Drive, Little Silver, NJ 07739

Dr. Carolyn M. Kossack
Superintendent of Schools

Tel: 732-741-2188
Fax: 732-741-3644

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Dear Parents of 5th Grade Students:

As you may know, the Markham Place School offers advanced math courses for students who meet the criteria based on multiple measures. Those students who qualify for an advanced math placement will have demonstrated during this fifth grade year that they will be able to handle the rigor of the instruction and math standards that are taught in the 6th Grade Advanced Math class.

We have recently been faced with a number of circumstances that have caused us to pause and evaluate our math placement options overall. In the past, we've identified a very small number of students (2-5 children) who have progressed on a *highly accelerated* math track. These few children ended up on a curriculum trajectory that placed them in a Geometry course at RBR as an 8th grade student. Now, we have created a plan that will increase the number of students who will be eligible for an 8th grade geometry placement that will be taught at Markham. I'm excited to share the new plan as your incoming 6th grade child will be part of the first cohort of students who could qualify for this opportunity!

Now that your child's 5th grade year is winding down, the 5th grade teachers and math department will soon be reviewing multiple measures of data to identify those students who have demonstrated a high level of math proficiency. These children will enter into a 6th grade Advanced Math Class after having satisfied multiple measures for qualification. That group of students will be further splintered in seventh grade into one of the following paths:

- 6th Grade Advanced Math → 7th Grade Advanced Math → Algebra 1
- 6th Grade Advanced Math → Algebra 1 → Geometry

The Little Silver School District takes great care in determining the appropriate placement for students because we understand how this can affect future academic opportunities. That said, the majority of our current fifth grade students will enter into a 6th grade math class. They will be appropriately on grade level and follow a traditional middle school path resulting in taking Algebra 1 as a freshman in high school.

I am hoping this letter further clarifies the math curriculum pathways for you as your child enters 6th grade in the fall. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Kossack
Superintendent of Schools