



**Accelerated Math Program**  
**Rationale & Criteria**  
**Malone Middle School**  
**Math Department**  
**(revised 9/27/2013)**

**Rationale**

The Malone Middle School Math Department believes all students including gifted and talented students have special learning needs. Research indicates that intellectually gifted, academically talented, highly motivated students are able to learn material rapidly and understand concepts deeply. Keeping them challenged and learning to their capacity may be achieved by participation in accelerated programs.

Sharon J. Lynch wrote an article entitled *Should Gifted Students Be Grade-Advanced?* (August 1994). She explains that insisting that gifted and talented students remain at pace with their age-mates at all costs may exact too high a cost for them. The end result is often boredom and daydreaming, poor study habits, behavior problems, or school avoidance. Good candidates for acceleration are students with standardized test scores that are above grade level. The decision to accelerate should be mutual, the student, parents, and school officials all agreeing that would serve the student well. Accelerated students report a heightened interest in and enthusiasm for school.

**Accelerated Math Program Criteria (beginning 2014)**

The MMS math department believes that eligibility for the accelerated math program should be data-driven. The math department will use the following criteria to determine eligibility for the accelerated math program:

- 1) Overall math average (40 points)
- 2) Attendance (10 points)
- 3) STAR Math Assessment score (25 points)
- 4) STAR Reading Assessment score (25 points).

Students who are eligible for the accelerated math program earn 90 or more of the rubric points.

*A copy of the accelerated math recommendation form is attached.*

**Removal from Accelerated Math Program (at the end of a school year)**

If a student's rubric points are below the 90 point threshold, the student will not be recommended to continue the accelerated math program.

**Removal from Accelerated Math Program (mid-year)**

If an accelerated math student is not maintaining a minimum 85% overall average, the teacher will contact the parent to discuss whether the accelerated math program is meeting the needs of the student. Based on parent and student feedback, a decision will be made regarding whether or not to remove the student from the program.



**Removal from Accelerated Math Program (at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

If the 8<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math student did not earn at least an 80% on the New York State Algebra I/Integrated Algebra Regents Exam and/or did not earn a minimum 85% overall average in the course, the teacher will contact the parent to discuss whether the accelerated math program is meeting the needs of the student. Based on parent and student feedback, a decision will be made regarding whether or not to remove the student from the program beginning in the ninth grade.

**Process for Joining the Accelerated Math Program in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (without completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math)**

Students who were not enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math program may be considered for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math program

- 1) if they earn at least 90 rubric points

**AND**

- 2) if they achieved a Level 3 or Level 4 on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade NYS Math Assessment.

(Use of the accelerated math recommendation criteria alone will not be effective since one of the criteria is overall math average – this would be an “apples to oranges” comparison since the 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math students would have taken a more rigorous Pre-Algebra course as opposed to the traditional, less rigorous 7<sup>th</sup> grade content.)

**Process for Joining the Accelerated Math Program (new student enrolls at MMS)**

If a student was enrolled in an accelerated math program at their previous school, the student would be enrolled in the accelerated math program at MMS.

If the student transfers to the MMS between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade years, eligibility for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math program will be determined by the following criteria:

- 1) Sixth Grade NYS Math Assessment score (Level 3 or Level 4)
- 2) STAR Math Assessment score (Grade Equivalent Score – at or above grade level)
- 3) Re-evaluation after 3-4 weeks in the program to determine if the program is meeting the needs of the student.