



March 1, 2019

Dear CWCKC 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents,

As you know, it is part of our goal to adapt our instructional practices to the unique styles of different learners at different stages of their development. This is consistent with the Constructivist approach to learning that is the philosophical foundation of our model. In some grades, this adaptation means we offer mixed-grade-level grouping such as our leveled reading groups, because reading skills develop along different timelines for different learners. In math, we use a different approach to serve our diverse learners.

We know that math curriculum is designed to progress from concrete to abstract in alignment with the developmental shift of children's cognitive growth. Across 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and into 4<sup>th</sup>, students become increasingly ready for abstract thinking skills – and, we see the curriculum shift accordingly.

We also know that students are most successful and responsive to instruction that is geared toward their own particular pacing and style. Some students are engaged most meaningfully when the pace is rather quick, and challenges come daily. Others relax and find their learning "comfort zone" when the pace is moderate and review is built in routinely. We know that both kinds of learners can experience great success in math. Being on an accelerated pathway is not a 'better' pathway -- finding the best 'personal' pathway is what is best for each student.

For all of these reasons, we offer mixed-grade-level opportunities for learning in mathematics beginning in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**We are offering a new option to those students for whom a more accelerated path in mathematics will bring the greatest success.**

Everyday Mathematics (K-5), the math curricular program for CWCKC elementary, is a rigorous and high level math program already. All of our students in our "grade level" math classes will be introduced to mathematical concepts at or above grade level, just as they always have been. All of our students will have the opportunity to learn through varied mathematical approaches that appeal to different kinds of thinkers and learners – in our classroom based math program as well as our mathematics lab. All of our students will take part in creative, life-based mathematics projects that take math off the paper and apply it to real life situations.

However, some students may also benefit by moving forward at a faster pace and facing more frequent and higher-level challenges. We consider the trademarks of these students to be the following:

- The student is excited by academic challenge in math and likes trying things that he/she doesn't initially understand.
- The student will ask questions when uncertain and is receptive to instruction from teachers, parents, and peers (at least most of the time!).
- The student has good time management skills and is able to complete math homework on a daily basis without a battle.

- The student is willing to try, and try, and try again when something in math doesn't come easily.
- The student is proud and excited by learning in math - - the "Aha...now I get it!" moment.

The decision to be in an accelerated math program will be reviewed every year. There will always be opportunities to move into or out of the accelerated program at each grade level to come. This should not be considered the "only chance" but instead, we would like you to consider whether it might be the best option for your child at this time.

If a more accelerated math program would best serve your child this year, there are two requirements for entry into the Accelerated Math Program at CWCKC.

- 1) We require math work to be completed over the summer. We will provide a packet of work for your child to do independently, and we will be providing some optional "drop in" math tutoring and support at our campus. PLEASE NOTE - - these are tutoring and support options; these are NOT math classes. Students can use these session if they are working independently and need some extra assistance. The tutoring sessions are not required. This means students can bring in questions, problems that have "stumped them" or come with requests for extra practice ideas for concepts that are challenging. The packet must be turned in by the deadline (early Aug. 2019) and must show thoughtful work throughout, equivalent to an 80% success rate.
- 2) We require all students submitting the completed math packet and requesting entry into Accelerated Math to take a Verification Assessment before placement into the math section. A score of 80% or better will be required to move into the accelerated class. This assessment is the equivalent of the 'end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade math' exam.

For those students who want to move into the Accelerated Math program, and who successfully complete the two requirements above, a math group placement will be provided that allows them to participate in 5<sup>th</sup> grade math instruction during their 4<sup>th</sup> grade school year. *(Continued participation in Accelerated Math year after year will result in a student completing Algebra 1 in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year and being 'on pace' to complete a year of Calculus as a high school senior.)*

Please consider your child's experience in math over this past year and whether you believe he/she would thrive in an accelerated environment. **This will demand responsibility for an increased homework load in math – daily assignments of 15-30 minutes 5 days per week for math; greater independence in their work both in and out of class; increased responsibility for time management; and more initiative to seek help or ask questions!** We will be considering the experiences we have observed in math classes over the past year(s) as well. We will contact you if we have any questions or would like to meet to discuss the decision.

Informational meetings for families are beginning March 1, 2019. Additional opportunities to discuss and plan will roll out across March and April. Summer math packets will be made available in mid-May 2019. Please do not ask for these in advance as they will not yet be prepared. Dates for tutoring sessions, packet submission, and scheduling the Verification Assessment will be distributed by the end of March.

**We must receive a completed form from every family in grade 3 who is interested in participating this summer in the accelerated process no later than the last day of the school year.**

**Accelerated Math Opportunity  
For CWCKC 3rd Graders  
SUMMER 2019**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN ACCELERATED MATH  
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO DR. DROEGE  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,  
BUT NO LATER THAN THE LAST DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please initial each item to demonstrate your understanding of the program requirements:**

\_\_\_\_\_ We are interested in our child participating in accelerated math during 4<sup>th</sup> grade of 2019-2020.

\_\_\_\_\_ We understand that in order to enter the accelerated math program our child must complete a math packet across the summer and return the completed work by the deadline (TBA – early August). Packets will be available in May 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_ We understand that the summer work requirement is ONLY for the year of entry into the program. Subsequent years, children who are successful during the school year in their accelerated math class can remain in accelerated math in the subsequent year without additional summer work requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_ We understand that students entering Accelerated Math will need to pass a verification assessment at 80% or higher to be assigned to the accelerated math class. This requirement is IN ADDITION to completing the summer packet of work.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN ACCELERATED MATH SHOULD RETURN THIS  
FORM TO DR. DROEGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN THE LAST DAY OF  
SCHOOL.**