

DRIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Marcellus Central School District

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Dedicated and Motivated to Succeed

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Dear Seventh Grade Student and Parent,

Your child is currently enrolled in the math acceleration program. Students who are in the accelerated math program are given the option to be considered for acceleration in science starting in 8th grade.

Science acceleration means that students can complete an additional year of high school science before they graduate. Taking a high school science in 8th grade will demand a greater level of commitment, motivation and effort with a greater work load than the typical 8th grade science class. Accelerated students will take high school Living Environment in 8th grade which is a Regents level course. It is important to understand that some "advanced" sciences (Honors and AP courses) in high school require above average grades in previous courses. Therefore, a student would want to earn solid grades (mastery is 85% or higher) in their science courses and on the Regents exams to be eligible for the advanced courses.

Our process for acceleration is as follows:



All of this data will be put into a rubric and based on scores and predictability of success, students will be selected for the accelerated program. If students enter the accelerated program they will be encouraged to maintain grades at mastery (85) or above. Demonstrating mastery indicates that students have a solid understanding of science content and the rigor of performance objectives in Regents level science courses.

When considering acceleration please keep in mind the following:

- Students do not need to be accelerated to benefit from a solid, well-rounded HS program and be prepared for any college or career he/she may select.
- Just because a student is accelerated in math does not mean he/she is appropriate for accelerated science.
- Students who accelerate should demonstrate exceptional strength in the content area and a desire to be challenged above and beyond.
- The accelerated science curriculum moves very quickly and expects students to perform at a faster pace with higher quality work. This requires a high level of personal responsibility and organization.
- The grades a student receives in Living Environment as an 8th grade student will appear on the student's HS transcript, as will the grade he/she receives on the Regents exam taken at the end of the year.

- As a high school science Regents course, there is a lab requirement for the course. Students are required to stay after school once a week to participate in the lab component of the course. The lab is scheduled on a specific day after school. Students who do not meet this requirement will not be allowed to take the Regents exam at the end of the year.

We are asking that you discuss this information and opportunity with your child. If you are uncertain about what choice to make or you need further information or clarification, please contact us so that we may discuss it further. It is our wish to have every parent/child complete the enclosed response form and return it to his/her science teacher by **Friday, February 15th**. The prognosis test will be given the week of February 25th to those students who return their form indicating they want to be considered. The enclosed form should indicate your choice regarding whether or not your child wants to pursue acceleration and continue in the process listed above. Please understand that your choice to enter the process does not guarantee placement into the accelerated program, it simply informs us that your child wants to take the prognosis test, have his/her data reviewed and be considered for placement. Student placement will be determined after the prognosis exam at which time all interested students/parents will be notified in regards to the decision made. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet O'Mara".

Janet O'Mara
Principal