

Application Package for Placement in Math 9 Rather than Math 8 during Grade 8 Year



WALNUT GROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Students who wish to accelerate their study of math at WGSS may want to take Math 9 during their grade 8 year, provided that they demonstrate that they are likely to be successful in doing so. Students need to complete these three steps in order to be considered for placement in Math 9 rather than Math 8:

1. Students complete **Form A**, and **bring it with them** to hand in on **exam day**
2. Grade 7 (Math) teachers complete **Form B** and **return it to Ms. Ruffo** at one of her **two** follow up visits
3. Students need to write the **Math 8 Challenge Exam**, on:

Tuesday, Mar 2 at 3:00 pm at WGSS

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***How long will the exam take?***

The exam will take approximately 1 – 1.5 hours for most students to complete, but they can work on it until they're finished. They are free to leave whenever they are done.

- ***What format will the questions be?***

The exam will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions as well as four questions that require full written solutions.

- ***What content will the exam cover?***

The exam will involve general concepts from elementary school mathematics. It is not a 'grade 8 math' exam.

- ***Do I need to prepare for the exam? What can I use as study material?***

Since the exam is mainly general problem solving in Mathematics rather than on specific content, it is not necessarily something for which you need study or prepare. This being said, many problems are similar to those on the 'Gauss' mathematics contest held in May every year. You can find past Gauss math contests on the University of Waterloo's website... http://cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/past_contests.html, or Google 'past gauss contests'.

- ***What should I bring to the exam?***

The exam is designed to be completed without the use of a calculator – calculators will not be permitted. Please bring your own pencils, eraser, etc.

- ***What will acceleration decisions be based on?***

Decisions about advanced placement in Math 9 will be based equally on both the teacher reference as well as the results of the challenge exam in an effort to help every new student to be successful in their first year at WGSS.

- ***When will I hear about results?***

Although the exam is written in March, decisions about school timetables are not finalized until later in the spring. You will be notified by email when Math placements have been made, but likely not for at least 6-8 weeks.

For more information, please contact Mr. Balzarini at ebalzarini@sd35.bc.ca

Form A – Student Application – to be completed by the student

Please complete this form **and bring it with you to WGSS on the day of the Challenge Test!**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Current Elementary School: _____

Student number (if known): _____ (usually six or seven digits)

Parent email*: _____

****ALL communication regarding placement in Math 8 or 9 will happen via EMAIL. Please ensure you have included a correct, current parent email address.***

Please tell us why you want to accelerate your study in Math:

Please tell us about the aspects of Math that you enjoy most:
