

The 2020-2021 school year has presented a unique set of opportunities and challenges. Strategic instructional choices about what and how to assess have been made to meet those challenges. Due to these choices, along with the lack of data from when schools went online in March, reading and mathematics data sources typically available for Middle School transition decisions are not accessible and alternative sources will be used.

Every school year there are students who require support in addressing unfinished learning from prior grades. This challenge may be felt more prominently in the coming years. Our position is that it is possible to hold high expectations for all students as we address any unfinished learning in the context of grade-level work. All students, including those needing interventions, require challenging work and cognitive demands in order to develop academic skills and grow as scholars. Assessment should never serve as a gatekeeper to grade-level content. If the data indicates that a student should receive an intervention, we should be ensuring that we have the capacity to meet those needs while providing access to grade-level content. We should also be able to actively track how those interventions are providing positive growth for students, and we should be aware when those needs have been met, so students can move forward.

The rubrics below have been created to guide course registration decisions as students move from 6th to 7th grade. We understand that this effort is multi-faceted, especially in terms of differentiation, student rigor, and providing adequate student support. In the coming school year, we will be providing more guidance and collaboration to assist your teachers in meeting student needs.

ELA

All 7th grade students are required to take 7th Grade ELA.

In addition, those students with unfinished learning and/or developing reading skills are recommended to enroll in 7th Grade Reading as one of their electives. This course is recommended to address any gaps in their development. It is anticipated to provide them with the skills necessary to access 7th Grade ELA content and beyond.

Students with scores “Approaching Proficient” or “Below Proficient” in two or more categories in the provided rubric are recommended to enroll in 7th Grade Reading as one of their elective credits to supplement their academic skills.

Reading Placement Rubric:

CATEGORY	Highly Proficient	Proficient	Approaching Proficient	Below Proficient
District Benchmark Out of 30 Points	29-30	24-28	17-23	0-16

HMH RI Lexile Score	1041+	955-1040	755-954	100-754
CogAt Verbal	CogAT Verbal Score in or above the 7th stanine PR: 77+	CogAT Verbal Score in the 5th or 6th stanine PR: 43-76	CogAT Verbal Score in the 3rd or 4th stanine PR: 25-42	CogAT Verbal Score in the 1st or 2nd stanine PR: 1-24

MATH

In light of the education experiences surrounding COVID-19, we see a greater need for students to solidify understanding and build a solid mathematical foundation. 7th grade mathematics is the cornerstone for understanding algebra, geometry, ratios and proportional reasoning, which are critical to the understanding of trigonometry and calculus.

The following math rubric can be used in order to make informed decisions on which mathematics class is appropriate.

Math Placement Rubric:

7 th grade Mathematics	7 th Grade Honors Mathematics	8 th Grade Honors Mathematics
<p>This course is recommended for the majority of incoming students.</p> <p>It will provide a solid foundation for developing understanding of mathematics in middle school and beyond.</p> <p><i>This course is recommended for about 80-95% of the population</i></p>	<p>This course is recommended for highly motivated students. It has the SAME standards as 7th grade mathematics, however it is fast paced and goes into greater depth with the content.</p> <p><i>This course is recommended for 10-20% of the population.</i></p>	<p>This course is an 8th grade level honors course. Students will need to enter having mastered the sixth and seventh grade curriculum. Without a solid foundation of 7th grade standards, students will struggle.</p> <p><i>This course is recommended for 3%-5% of the population.</i></p>
<p>Parent/Student Choice</p>	<p>Parent/Student Choice</p>	<p>Requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CogAT Quantitative Score in the 8th, 9th Stanine 2. Score of 80% or better on a 7th Grade Assessment

Important Math Note: The District is not able to provide summer courses as in previous years due to funding being reallocated. Students will have to be fully prepared to begin 8th grade in August.

We anticipate students' scores for ELA and Math will be provided to counselors the week of January 25. Parent letters will be sent out that week as well. A 7th grade assessment will be included in the letter for those parents interested in testing for 8th grade honors. Schools will be notified of students meeting both requirements for 8th grade Honors after February 19.

ATTACHMENTS Include any attachments you may have.

SPECIAL NOTES

- Send an individual email for each JAM article.
- JAM messages are due by Wednesday at 3:00 for Thursday publication!
- All JAM messages should be approved by Shelley or CRK.
- JAM messages sent to Nadine Page.
nadine.page@jordandistrict.org -- Phone 801-567-8186.