

January 2008

Dear Parents and Students,

In fall 2005, Georgia began the implementation of a more rigorous math curriculum based on performance standards (Georgia Performance Standards) for mathematics. Middle School students entering the 9th grade in August of 2008 will have participated in the new math curriculum in grades 6, 7, and 8 and should be ready for a more challenging math curriculum at Rome High School.

The new math curriculum has some different language with which you may be unfamiliar. The new curriculum integrates topics like algebra, geometry, and statistics throughout grades 6 through 11. Since the old courses no longer describe what is being taught, the names of the high school courses have changed to match the content. The new course and names reflect a more integrated, problem-solving, real-world approach to mathematics. Additionally, these courses are increased in rigor. Under this new curriculum, students who finished the 8th grade in Georgia this year have learned 80% of the concepts and skills previously taught in Algebra I, 50% of the content traditionally taught in high school Geometry, and a significant amount of statistics and probability previously taught in high school courses. The new standards require that students think critically, apply the mathematics they are learning in problem-solving situations, and communicated their work.

Georgia's GPS based program is strongly endorsed by the major universities in the state, including Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia. Colleges and universities throughout the United States are aware of and, in most cases, promoting these kinds of changes.

In order to familiarize you with the content and changes in course names, you will find listed below, the complete sequence of classes of all four years for all freshmen entering high school in Georgia in fall 2008 with the "equivalent" topics taught in each course. Please note that all freshmen will take either "Math I" or "Accelerated Math I".

High School Mathematics Sequence:

Math I	Algebra I/Geometry/Data Analysis
Math II	Geometry/Algebra II/Data Analysis
Math III	Advanced Algebra/Data Analysis
Math IV	Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry/Data Analysis

High School Accelerated Mathematics Sequence:

Accelerated Math I:	Geometry/Algebra II/Data Analysis
Accelerated Math II:	Advanced Algebra/Data Analysis
Accelerated Math III:	Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry/Data Analysis
Accelerated Math IV:	Discrete Mathematics (may be taken after Accelerated Math II) AP Statistics (may be taken after Accelerated Math II) AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC Post Secondary Options (Multivariable Calculus)

The "traditional" courses and math curriculum of the past are no longer enough to prepare our students for the demands of the major universities and technical colleges. Georgia's new high school math curriculum was designed to place our students ahead of those students who have taken the traditional sequences of math courses and to be more competitive in scholarship offerings and enrollment to the most elite universities in our nation.

Rome Middle School 8th grade students will be receiving more information on the math curriculum and advisement materials to select their high school courses in the upcoming weeks. The Georgia Department of Education has additional information on the new math curriculum on the following website: www.GeorgiaMath.org.

There is no doubt that the math sequence of classes stated above will give the students of Rome High School a more challenging math sequence that will place them on a higher plane than ever before. We look forward to the challenge and look forward to the opportunities that it will present our students.

Sincerely,

J. Tygar Evans
Principal, Rome High School