

## St. Francis Cathedral School

June 12, 2017

Dear Parents,

I am writing to summarize the main points made at the meeting for parents and guardians of grades 5, 6, and 7 regarding the Middle School Mathematics program.

At this time every year the faculty and administration convene to review and evaluate our school curriculum. Our school goal in mathematics includes the emphasis on maximizing mathematics achievement for all students. As we note our progress in this goal, we consider the following factors:

- Ensuring the alignment of instruction to the NJ Learning Standards in Mathematics
- Varying instructional strategies for mastery of Mathematics stressing the importance of problem solving
- Review of tools/materials used to ensure adequate progress toward our goals. In particular, we make note of tools/materials that are highly engaging to students.

As a means toward our goals, we have made the decision to use the Acellus Mathematics Program as a tool within our Middle School program. The use of Acellus will enable us to gather data quickly and efficiently in order to determine a student's needs in mathematics. Students will be grouped for math class in their grade with students that have a similar performance level. Classes will be designated: 6 Math-1, 6 Math-2, 7 Math-1, 7 Math-2, Algebra 1-1, Algebra 1-2. Placement in the class is based on report card scores, Terra Nova scores, and teacher recommendation.

The Acellus program will be an advantageous tool since it will provide data to both students and teachers which will help drive instruction. Each student will take a diagnostic test in September; the data from which will be used to determine the students' strengths and weaknesses. Students will have the opportunity for repeated practice where needed in order to build their mathematical skills. Instructional videos imbedded in the program are available so that students may review skills learned during the school day, as well as preview upcoming material.

Mrs. Monteleone and Mrs. Scudero will be attending training at the International Academy of Science for a three-day Web-learning Certification and Training Course in Kansas City. The training is designed to give administrators and teachers effective strategies for organizing blended web-learning. They are very excited about the trip and program and we look forward to helping our students get the advantages they need to be highly successful math students.

I invite you to peruse the website to learn more about the Acellus program [www.acellus.com](http://www.acellus.com)

As always I am grateful for your support as we move forward with our blended learning program.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stevens  
Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MATH

ACELLUS PROGRAM

# SCHOOL WIDE MATH GOAL

- Equitable education for all
- Maximizing mathematics achievement
- Implement tasks that promote reasoning and problem solving

# PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL

- Align instruction to standards and guidelines
- Vary instructional strategies
- Review tools/materials to ensure progress

# EFFECTIVE TOOLS...

- Increase student engagement
- Contain topics that are organized in simple and coherent structure
- Provide assessment that become part of the instruction and give feedback to students and teachers

# ACELLUS AT SFCS

- Review student class work, report card grades, Terra Nova results, and teacher recommendations
- Group students similarly within a **RANGE** of performance levels
- Complete a diagnostic in September to verify the appropriate level of instruction
- Progress on the Acellus program at appropriate pace to complete level of curriculum

Visit the Acellus site for more information

[Acellus Web Based Learning](#)