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# Acceleration Meeting

South Orangetown Central School District  
February 7, 2024

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# Introductions

Rudy Arietta - Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

SOMS Faculty and Administration

- Chad Corey, Principal
- Patricia Cardenas - Science Team Leader
- Vinny Piscitelli - Math Team Leader
- Siobhan Maiorano - Counseling Team Leader

TZHS Faculty and Administration

- Melissa Luciano, Principal
  - Brian Newburger - Science Team Leader
  - Doreen Braunagel, Math Team Leader
  - Kelly Keane, Counseling Team Leader
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# Objectives

- To provide families with information about acceleration process at SOMS
  - To map out pathways for students who have/have not accelerated in Math and Science while at SOMS
  - To answer general questions about the process
  - To open a dialogue with SOMS and TZHS about the options that are available to students in Math and Science
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# District Philosophy and Policy

- Four years of Math at the high school
  - Four years of Science at the high school
  - Students take a rigorous curriculum that is individualized to their strengths, interests, and work ethic
  - Recommendation based system
  - Open Enrollment via Parental Override
  - Prerequisites
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# SOMS-TZHS Math Sequence

Grade Level	Accelerated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 6 - Math 6</li><li>• Grade 7 - Math 7</li><li>• Grade 8 - Math 8</li><li>• Grade 9 - Algebra (Regents)</li><li>• Grade 10 - Geometry (Regents), Honors, Applications in Geometry</li><li>• Grade 11 - Algebra 2 and Trigonometry (Regents), Honors, Non-Regents</li><li>• Grade 12 - Precalculus (Honors), Probability and Statistics, Math Analysis, AP Statistics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 6 - Math 6</li><li>• Grade 7 - Pre-Algebra (Math 7+8)</li><li>• Grade 8 - Algebra Honors (Regents)</li><li>• Grade 9 - Geometry (Regents), Honors, Applications in Geometry</li><li>• Grade 10 - Algebra 2 and Trigonometry (Regents), Honors, Non-Regents</li><li>• Grade 11 - Precalculus (Honors), Probability and Statistics</li><li>• Grade 12 - Calculus, AP Calculus AB/BC, AP Statistics, Probability &amp; Stats, Math Analysis</li></ul>

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# Acceleration Process in Math

- Sixth grade students who demonstrate strong academic performance in Math may be considered for recommendation for single-acceleration in Math starting in Grade 7
  - Students are typically identified in the winter of sixth grade, based on Math quarter grades, test/quiz average and STAR reading score using a rubric.
  - Families of students who are recommended for single-grade acceleration in Math are notified by mail in the spring.
  - Single-acceleration pathway: Grade 6 Math > Pre-Algebra Honors > Algebra I Honors.
  - All coursework for single-grade accelerated Math students is offered at SOMS.
  - Students must meet the high school minimum attendance requirements for Algebra I Honors.
  - Students take the Algebra I Regents exams.
  - Course appears on TZHS transcript
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# Double Acceleration in Math

Sixth-graders who demonstrate exceptional academic performance in mathematics may be considered for double-grade acceleration..

- Students are required to test for double-grade acceleration eligibility. They are provided with a review packet and must take the final exam for the course they would skip in order to double-grade accelerate.
    - Typically, a sixth-grade student who has been identified will be given a review packet in June of their sixth-grade year to prepare for the Pre-Algebra final exam in the summer. Students who score a 90 or higher are eligible to enroll in Algebra I Honors for Grade 7. Double-grade acceleration pathway starting in Grade 7: Grade 6 Math > Algebra I Honors > Geometry Honors.
    - In rare instances, students may be identified in the fall of sixth-grade to test for double-grade acceleration eligibility. These students are given a review packet to prepare for the Math 7 final exam, which is administered within a few weeks. Students who score a 90 or higher are eligible to enroll in Pre-Algebra Honors for Grade 6. To accommodate Pre-Algebra Honors scheduling, students who are double-grade accelerated during Grade 6 do not have the opportunity to take Explore coursework. Double-grade acceleration pathway starting in Grade 6: Pre-Algebra Honors > Algebra I Honors > Geometry Honors.
  - Double-grade accelerated students are required to attend their Geometry Honors class at Tappan Zee High School. Eighth-graders are assigned to a morning high school bus; transportation after class from TZHS to SOMS is provided.
  - Students must meet the high school minimum attendance requirements for Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors.
  - Students take both the Algebra I Honors and Geometry Regents exams.
  - There is no override option if student does not meet criteria
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# On ramps to acceleration in Math at TZHS

- 10th grade - double up in Geometry and Algebra II
  - 11th grade - Summer Precalculus (principal approved course) plus department assignment
  - Things to consider:
    - Scheduling implications
    - Transcript implications (Summer Course will not appear on TZHS transcript)
    - Knowing your student
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# SOMS-TZHS Science Sequence

## Grade Level

- Grade 6 - Science 6
- Grade 7 - Science 7
- Grade 8 - Science 8
- Grade 9 - Living Environment (Regents)
- Grade 10 - Earth Science (Regents), General Science
- Grade 11 - Chemistry (Regents), Electives, General Science
- Grade 12 - Physics (Regents), Electives, General Science, AP

## Accelerated

- Grade 6 - Science 6
  - Grade 7 - Science 7
  - Grade 8 - Earth Science (Regents)
  - Grade 9 - Living Environment (Regents)/Honors
  - Grade 10 - Chemistry, General Science, Electives
  - Grade 11 - Physics, electives, AP, General Science
  - Grade 12 - Physics, electives, AP, General Science
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# Acceleration Process in Science

Seventh-grade students who demonstrate strong academic performance in science and math may be considered for recommendation for single-acceleration in science—enrollment in Regents Earth Science—for Grade 8.

- Students are typically identified in the winter of seventh grade, based on quarter math and science averages, as well as science test and lab grades.
  - Families of students who are recommended for single-grade acceleration in science are notified by mail in the spring.
  - Course topics covered are: chemistry; rocks and minerals; measuring the Earth; plate tectonics; weather, erosion and deposition; weather and climate; Earth history; and, Earth in space.
  - Regents Earth Science is offered at SOMS.
  - Students must meet the high school minimum attendance requirements.
  - Students take the Earth Science Regents exam.
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# Reasons to Accelerate

- Student has demonstrated achievement, work ethic, and/or passion in subject area
  - Student wants to maximize course offerings at TZHS
  - Student wants to challenge themselves\*
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# Wrong Reasons to Accelerate

- Social reasons
  - Status reasons
  - Weighting of TZHS GPA
  - Not maximizing course offerings at TZHS
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## Characteristics of a Successful Student in an Accelerated/Honors Class

- Demonstrates initiative/independence
  - Willingness to communicate with teacher and peers
  - Ability to work independently and collaboratively
  - Eager to learn and participate
  - Interest and enthusiasm for the subject matter
  - Ability to make connections
  - Willing to take academic risks
  - Problem solving skills
  - Analysis skills
  - Tolerance for discomfort
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# How should you measure success?

- Active participation and engagement
  - Demonstration of work ethic
  - Engaged in the learning process
  - Student disposition
  - Stress level
  - Grades should not be used as the only metric of success
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**Questions?**

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