

## 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:

**Thursday, Mar 8 at 3:30 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?***  
It will include multiple-choice questions as well as several 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. That 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](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](mailto: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:

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

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**Form B – Teacher Reference - to be completed by student’s grade 7 (Math) teacher**

The student who has given you this form has applied to be accelerated in Math at WGSS starting next year. Please provide information that would help in deciding whether this student is likely to be successful or not if approved to be placed directly in Math 9.

Please rate this student in comparison to **all students that you have taught in your career**, (in relation to the student’s work in Math only). *check appropriate column for each aspect*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
last name first name

	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Well Above Average	Outstanding
Academic Achievement					
Academic Potential					
Classroom Work Habits					
Self-Motivation					
Curiosity for Learning					
Intuitive Math Ability					
Clarity and completeness of written work in Math					

Please explain briefly whether this student’s success in Math is a result of natural ability or strong work ethic (or both). Also provide any additional information that would help place this student in the appropriate math course (Math 8 or Math 9) next year. (Use back of page if necessary.)

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Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Ms. Ruffo on one of her two follow up visits (or if that is not possible, please forward it directly to the WGSS via school district mail).

**Please DO NOT return the form to the student!**