

G/T PRE-ALGEBRA – GRADE 6 CLASS DESCRIPTION

Students participating in the sixth grade Gifted and Talented mathematics class use problem solving techniques and study advanced mathematics skills from an in-depth perspective. Throughout the course, the mathematics skills are integrated with data analysis, algebra, geometry, and problem solving. The skills involve working with rational numbers, ratio, proportion, percent, equations, inequalities, statistics, and probability. Homework and study skills are also important components for successful completion of the course. This course prepares students for the seventh grade Algebra I/Data Analysis G/T course.

Gifted and Talented Mathematics Class Descriptions

The Middle School Gifted and Talented (G/T) Mathematics Program is an accelerated and enriched sequence that provides opportunities for highly able students to increase the depth and breadth of the learning of mathematics by studying advanced-level concepts and skills in the middle school as they move into the high school curriculum. The content and subject matter have been developed to incorporate the Maryland State Learning Outcomes and the Maryland Core Learning Goals for mathematics as well as national standards which reflect current research in mathematics educational practices. The curriculum provides concepts at least two years accelerated above the general education curriculum, allowing students to complete algebra and geometry in middle school.

The real-world orientation to the Gifted and Talented curriculum provides the student many opportunities to apply mathematical content to real-life situations. Challenging outside projects and long-term assignments are frequently used as an integral part of the program in order to enable students to extend and apply the mathematics learned in the classroom.

Students participating in Gifted and Talented mathematics classes are expected to read technical matter on a regular basis in order to gather information about challenging mathematical concepts. Teachers frequently encourage students to search for answers to problems presented in the readings. Writing helps students clarify their own thinking and express their own ideas. Therefore, students are expected to use the readings to write explanations of concepts or justifications of their thinking in order to communicate mathematical ideas to others. Technology is integrated throughout the Gifted and Talented Mathematics Program in order to facilitate students' problem solving skills. Students learn to use scientific calculators, graphing calculators, and spreadsheets in their solutions and explanations.

Students entering the Gifted and Talented Mathematics Program as sixth graders and who continue in the G/T mathematics sequence in seventh and eighth grades have the

opportunity to complete mathematics courses through Differential Equations in high school.