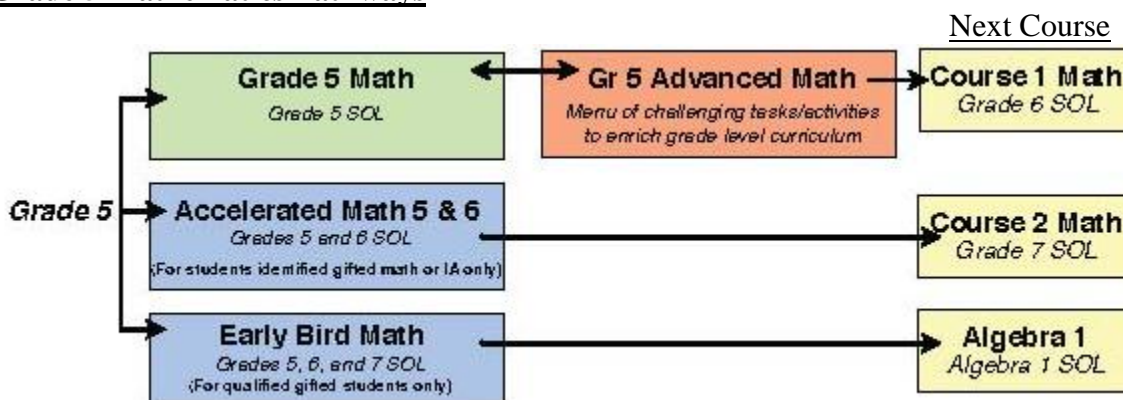


## Gifted Identification and Mathematics Programs 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Communication

Henrico County Public Schools is committed to partnering with our parents to provide a variety of educational opportunities to meet student needs. As part of this commitment, our mathematics program is diversified to offer advanced and accelerated coursework for students with proven mathematical aptitude.

Below you will find a graphic chart depicting the variety of programs designed to meet student needs in the mathematics program and the coursework that follows each. The purpose of this communication is to identify the mathematics programs and ensure that parents understand the pre-requisites and consequences for participation in each.

### Grade 5 Mathematics Pathways



#### **Grade 5 Advanced Math**

Students who are identified by teaching staff as having advanced aptitude in Mathematics, whether or not they are identified gifted in Mathematics, may participate in the Advanced Mathematics program to extend and enrich the 5th grade curriculum. These students will take the 5<sup>th</sup> grade SOL at the end of the year. *Successful completers will be recommended for cluster grouping in Course 1 Math (6<sup>th</sup> grade math) for advancement in middle school.*

#### **Accelerated Math 5 & 6**

Students who are identified as gifted in Mathematics will be enrolled in the Accelerated Math 5 & 6 UNLESS the parent or teacher requests placement in Grade 5 Advanced Math or the student qualifies for the Early Bird Math course. Students in this course will be required to cover 2 years (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) of mathematics material in a one year program and will take the math 6 SOL at the end of the course. *Successful completers will be recommended for Course 2 (7<sup>th</sup> grade math) for their 6<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics course in middle school.*

#### **Early Bird Math**

Students who are identified as gifted in Mathematics and who successfully complete a two-tiered screening process, which includes additional testing, may enroll in the Early Bird Math course. Students in this course will be required to cover 3 years (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

grade) of mathematics material in a one year program. These students will take the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math SOL at the end of the course. *Successful completers will be recommended for Algebra I for their 6<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics course in middle school.*

\*Parents are advised that only the **top .5% - 1%** of rising gifted fifth-grade students in the county are selected to participate in the course. The course is offered daily as an “early bird” class, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and parents/guardians must provide transportation in the morning to the middle school site. This year the course is at Hungary Creek Middle School.

### **Gifted Identification**

Henrico offers a strong mathematics program for all students at all grade levels. However, for the courses denoted above that represent a very accelerated track requiring covering 2 or more years of mathematics material in a single year, **gifted identification is a requirement**. Therefore, if you believe that your child has the aptitude to participate in this very demanding coursework it is a requirement that they either be currently identified or successfully complete the gifted identification process in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade students may enter the gifted identification process as a division referral or by request from parents/guardians, educators, community members, peers or students. **The deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup> to request students be placed in the screening pool for gifted identification. Please contact your child’s teacher or principal to request a gifted referral form or utilize the form found on the website below.**

Please refer to the following website for more information.

<http://henrico.k12.va.us/Pdf/Gifted/GiftedFAQs.pdf>

### **Additional Information**

A second entry point into the accelerated mathematics program for students who are identified gifted while in middle school will be determined by individual case, based on when the student is identified gifted. A summer school geometry course is offered (on site or online) as an advancement option for all students in the summer following their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

Geometry in middle school does NOT offer any advantage for admission to ANY of the programs in Henrico, with the exception of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School. Currently, half of the students at the Math Specialty Center completed Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Advanced and Accelerated math offer exactly the same point value on the middle school IB application.

We recognize and value our parent’s partnership in supporting their children’s success. If any parent has questions or concerns regarding our mathematics or any other academic program, we invite you to contact your building principal for additional information.

