



SPAULDING HIGH SCHOOL

and
R. W. CRETEAU REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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Esteemed Students and Parents & Guardians of the Graduating Class of 2013,

Spaulding High School is excited to announce to you the unfolding of an exciting and new opportunity which is being presented to the Junior Class.

Research has shown that mathematics preparation in high school is the best predictor of college success. With that said, it is a stark reality that “65 - 70% of students planning to attend New Hampshire’s Community Colleges are unprepared to enroll in college level mathematics courses. Nationally, 40% of students entering four-year colleges and universities are, also, unprepared to enroll in their first college-level mathematics course.”

The consequences to this reality heavily impact the educational outcomes of these students. Beyond the cost in time, tuition, and discouragement, a recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics reports that “Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of those who require one or two remedial math courses fail to earn degrees. Additionally, developmental math courses cost \$550 - \$730 per course and some students require two such courses. These courses do not satisfy degree requirements. These courses are often a student’s most difficult first semester courses. In contrast, nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of students who do not require remediation complete associates degrees or bachelor’s degrees.” Every Associate’s Degree program in the Community College System of New Hampshire requires the completion of at least one college level math course.

In response to these realities a two-tiered strategy for strengthening math preparedness has been developed. For more information please visit www.ccsnh.edu/specproj.html. Senior Math is the first tier of support. Senior Math is premised on the 14 prerequisite math competencies which are the fundamental skills that are necessary to successfully engage in threshold level college math courses (first for degree credit).

- Perform operations with signed numbers
- Simplify algebraic expressions
- Solve and graph linear equations and linear inequalities
- Solve formulas for specific variables
- Apply the rules of exponents
- Evaluate numerical square roots
- Translate and solve word problems
- Graph linear equalities in two variables
- Find the slope of a line
- Simplify polynomials
- Factor polynomials
- Solve systems of linear equations in two variables
- Simplify rational expressions
- Solve quadratic equations by factoring

Senior Math is focused on the learning skills and inclinations of middle-achieving high school seniors. Multiple teaching strategies are employed to best assure both the engagement of these, sometimes, reluctant learners and their ultimate success in mastering the targeted competencies. Preliminary pre- and post-test results have shown more than a 200% improvement in the number of students achieving the Accuplacer score established for waiver/advising entrance into the first college level math course at the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH). These students have now earned the opportunity to either enter one of the Community Colleges without the need for remediation (and all its incumbent costs), or enroll in the second stage of the Two-Tier Strategy.

Spaulding High School is rolling out a support plan for all juniors this school year. All juniors will be presented an opportunity to take the Accuplacer, a widely used mathematics college placement test. In fact, all NH community colleges rely upon the results of the Accuplacer for successful placement. We are hopeful to have administered the test by the end of the first semester. February 20th we will present the juniors' scores, supported with an informational presentation. During this presentation we will help them to interpret their scores. We will also highlight the benefits of enrolling in Senior Math.

You may view the powerpoint that will be presented to your son/daughter at the following website. Posted here you will also find the CCSNH Mathematics Requirements Handbook which outlines the required mathematics courses arranged by the offered majors.

<https://sites.google.com/site/newtoshsfaq/course-competencies-by-dept/math-competencies>

Our desire is to see several members of the junior class take advantage of this amazing opportunity. For those students who decide to enroll in Senior Math, a post-test of the Accuplacer will be offered. A successful desired result will be increased student success and college readiness. These scores will be valid for one full year, therefore valid for placement in college level mathematics courses. Students requiring additional remediation will be supported in an alternative plan which will focus on their individual weaknesses.

We will be offering a parent & student informational forum during College Night on at 6:00PM on March 7th to further clarify this exciting opportunity. This will be a great time to come in and learn more about the efforts being made by the SHS Math Department to further support our college bound students.

We are hopeful to be able to implement tier two, TAC.Math during the 2012-2013 school year. Students successfully completing TAC.Math will earn either three or four credits in college-level mathematics, credits accepted at all of the CCSNH Colleges and transferable to a growing number of both two and four year colleges.

With Best Regards
&
Mathematical Excitement

Spaulding High School