



Dear Student and Parents,

The purpose of the test students will soon take is to help us understand which math class students should go into when starting OSA. The default expectation is the normal grade level course:

- 6th Grade – CC1
- 7th Grade – CC2
- 8th Grade – CC3

This sequence continues with Algebra 1 in 9th grade, Geometry in 10th, Algebra 2 in 11th, and Pre-Calculus in 12th.

Students come to OSA from many different schools and with varied mathematical background. Sometimes, students may have already covered the topics in their normal grade level class and fully understand them. In this case, we have found it is more useful for the student to move forward to the next level, rather than revisiting topics that are already familiar and well understood.

The MDTP test assesses readiness for the next level of math. For example, the **7th Grade Readiness Test** indicates whether students have learned everything they need to learn through 6th grade in order to be ready to succeed in the 7th grade class.

The test being given to students at this time will be for the class beyond the normal grade level class. In other words, incoming 6th graders will be taking the **7th Grade Readiness Test**, incoming 7th graders will be taking the **8th Grade Readiness Test**, and so on. Again, the purpose of this is to identify students who have already mastered the material for the grade level they are entering so that they don't repeat material that is already well understood.

Because the test being given is actually for the following grade level, the "normal" outcome would be for a student to be unfamiliar with many of the topics. This should not be troubling; it simply indicates that the student's math understanding is not ahead of grade level, and the student would most benefit from taking the standard, grade level class.

This leads to some guidelines for taking the test. It is important to follow these guidelines to get an authentic test result that leads to the best placement:

- If you do not understand a problem, leave it blank. Do not take random guesses. It is okay to skip as many problems as you need to. A skipped question allows teachers to know that you are not familiar with the topic and helps us know how to teach you.

- If you think you know how to do a problem but are having trouble getting the exact answer, then it is okay to take your best, educated guess.
- Use only your own thinking and paper and pencil to help you figure out problems. Do not get help from any other person, the internet, books, notes, or even a calculator
- It is okay if you don't finish every problem within the time period. If a problem is taking a long time, you are welcome to skip it and come back to it later if you have time at the end.

Above all, neither students nor parents should feel any stress or pressure about this test! Do your best, but don't worry if the problems seem hard. Remember, they are supposed to be hard because you are taking a test on material you are supposed to learn this year! Be aware that we know a single test is only one, very limited indication of your strengths as a student and abilities as a mathematician. Whatever class you end up in, your classroom teacher will be keeping a close eye on how you are doing and whether it is the best class for you. Classroom teachers can and do recommend changes, so this test is not the end of the story.

Instructions for accessing the test will be emailed immediately before the testing window, which is 9:00 – 11:00 am, Tuesday, August 4.

Welcome to OSA, I look forward to meeting you down the road.

Mr. King
Math Department Chair
Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 Teacher