



Glen Cove School District: Update *“Expanding Opportunities for All”*

Dr. Michael Israel

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

“Expanding Opportunities for All”

During the Fall of 2015, in an effort to more effectively comply with NYSED The Part 100 Regulations of the Commissioner of Education: *Public school students in grade 8 shall have the opportunity to take high school courses* , we began a discussion centered on our honors program.

“Expanding Opportunities for All”

2013–2016: FMS faculty have had multiple discussions about the effectiveness of the honors program

- Changes were made to the sixth grade program
- ▶ Limited number of FMS students took Algebra Regents and Earth Science Regents in gr. 8
- ▶ Students denied admission to FMS Honors classes based on criteria
- ▶ 2014–2015 Curriculum Revision Math Honors Gr. 7
- ▶ Meeting held in September with FMS Grade 7 teachers to get their recommendations regarding placement of new students.

“MS Honors” in Nassau County??

- ▶ LIST SERV to Long Island school districts –
 - Do they organize an honors program in MS?
 - What is the criteria they follow for admission to Regents level courses in Math & Science in Grade 8?
- ▶ Department meetings–discussion with teachers

Expanding Opportunities for All at FMS

- ▶ Discussion at Middle School Site Based Meeting on Nov. 19 and follow-up presentation on Dec. 21
- ▶ Presentation at Public Meeting BOE on Dec. 14
- ▶ Presentation at District Curriculum Committee on Jan. 7
- ▶ Presentation at Public Meeting BOE on Feb. 29

Expanding Opportunities for All

- ▶ Follow-up:
 - Dr. Rianna and I held a roundtable meeting with GCTA VP & HS & MS teachers (Jan. 26).
 - I met individually with various teachers.
 - Additional meetings were held with individual parents.
 - Building administrators and coordinators held additional meetings with their departments, including a science department meeting for teachers in grades 7–12.

Process for Self-Selection developed by FMS faculty

FMS administration met with Gr. 6-7-8 teachers to establish a process for 'self-select' as follows:

1. Informational Meetings
2. Parents submitted course request forms.
3. Teachers reviewed the forms and provided their input & recommendations.
4. Follow-up parent meetings were held as needed.
5. Students are being scheduled into the accelerated courses in math & science in gr. 7 or 8.

Expanding Opportunities for All

- ▶ Presentation on differentiation demonstrated how Glen Cove teachers differentiate to meet the needs of their students in heterogeneous classrooms (Apr. 11)
- ▶ We presented research on differentiation and the benefits of de-tracking, most notably the research on “mis-tracked students”

Research on “Mis-tracked” Kids

- ▶ Average achievers (C+ students), misplaced into the course for the low achievers, their chance of completing the college-preparatory courses was 2%.
- ▶ If they were placed in a course designed for average achievers, their chance of completion rose to 23%.
- ▶ If they had been misplaced into the high-track course, their chance of completing rose dramatically to 91%.

Expanding Opportunities for All

- ▶ Social Studies and ELA teachers will differentiate to meet the needs of students, texts will be aligned to Lexile levels
- ▶ Based on the work of ELA Alignment Committee, changes are being made to ELA instructional model
- ▶ The new model will have teachers move toward reading independent texts (based on Lexile Level), and utilize Anchor Texts to ensure that learning standards are achieved

Accelerated Course Offerings

- ▶ Pre-Algebra (7th Grade)
- ▶ Regents Algebra (8th Grade)
- ▶ Regents Earth Science (8th Grade)
- ▶ Humanities (6th–8th Grades; not during lunch pds.)
- ▶ Research I, II, III (6th–8th Grade)
*Research for 8th grade is a full-year course, inclusive of National History Day.

Further Enhancements

- ▶ New affiliation with Virtual Enterprise Junior Ventures Career Academy (grades 7 & 8)
- ▶ 1:1 iPad Initiative beginning in 6th Grade
 - will include professional development and ongoing support for teachers and students
- ▶ Additional iPad carts will be added to each of our 7th and 8th grade teams to further their capacity in the use of technology

Thank you for your attention.

