

CRESSKILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

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March 21, 2022

Dear Cresskill 5th Graders and Families,

I hope this message finds you well. It's hard to believe that it is already March and that scheduling for the 2022-2023 school year has begun. For our incoming 6th grade students, there is an opportunity to be selected for our Algebra I class. Placement in this class is determined by many factors, one of which is a standardized multiple choice assessment. In the past, we have administered this test to all 5th grade students in the Cresskill School District. Many parents, however, have expressed a desire to have their child "opt-out" where their child would remain in the classroom rather than take a rather difficult exam. The test will take place on Wednesday, March 30th for Edward H. Bryan School and Thursday, March 31st for Merritt Memorial School. Below you will find a description of the Algebra I offerings in the Cresskill School District.

Algebra I is typically a 9th grade level course. The major areas of study include fundamental operations, real numbers, polynomials, linear equations, systems of equations, rational expressions, radical expressions, quadratic equations, and relations. Following a traditional sequence, a student would complete Algebra I as a freshman in high school; take a Geometry course as a sophomore, followed by an Algebra II course during their junior year. Cresskill offers a unique opportunity for students where they can complete Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 while in middle school. After a student successfully completes this program in middle school, they will take Math Analysis as a 9th grader. In 10th-12th grade they will complete AP Calculus, Multivariable Calculus, and AP Statistics. Students must also meet the graduation requirements for their class as required by the state of New Jersey. This is a challenging program for our middle school students and continues to be a challenging program throughout high school.

In order to place students in this program, the Algebra Placement exam is given. The Algebra Placement exam tests a student's current knowledge and their ability to apply it. The test contains 50 multiple choice questions and is 45 minutes in duration.

When placing a child in 6th grade Algebra 1 a variety of items are considered. Their placement does not solely rely on the placement exam. In addition to their results on this test, we review their diagnostic scores and their marking period grades for the first half of the year. We also speak with their current teacher and gather information about their work habits, inquisitiveness, and problem solving skills.

As mentioned earlier, this is a very challenging program for our middle school students. There is only one section of 6th grade Algebra 1. If a child does not enter Algebra 1 in 6th grade, they will have an opportunity to take Algebra 1 in 7th grade, 8th grade, or 9th grade.

The Cresskill Schools will utilize the core curriculum content standards to promote academic excellence and foster self-esteem in a dynamic, caring environment and will prepare students to be life-long learners and contributors in an evolving and ever-changing world.

While the test is a requirement for students attempting to qualify for placement into 6th grade Algebra I, it is not an assessment needed for any other scheduling reason. If you would like to have your child “opt-out” of taking the Algebra I placement test, please complete the form below and return it to your child’s 5th grade teacher no later than Thursday, March 25th. If you have any other questions about the exam, feel free to reach out to me.

Parents will be notified of their child’s placement for the following year by the end of May. If you have not received a letter by this time or have a concern over your child’s placement, please email me at apecck@cresskillnj.net.

Sincerely,

Alexis Peck

Alexis Peck
K-12 Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
Cresskill School District
apecck@cresskillnj.net

Algebra I Test “Opt-out” Form

CHILD’S NAME: _____

PARENT’S NAME: _____

I DO NOT WANT MY CHILD TO TAKE THE ALGEBRA I PLACEMENT TEST
_____ (Place a check here)

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

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