

August 13th, 2009

Dear Parents and Students,

We are excited for the new school year! We look forward to a successful year working with your child.

For the fourth year in a row, HCHS has achieved AYP on the Kansas Math Assessment. This is a part of the No Child Left Behind policy mandated by the President. We have a system in place that has enabled us to accomplish this goal.

Students in Kansas are required to take the math assessment no later than their junior year of high school. For those who do not reach the required minimum score, they have a second opportunity to take the exam. The test covers Algebra I and Geometry concepts, so all freshman at HCHS take Algebra I and, as sophomores, they take Geometry. We give the assessment in the spring of their sophomore year. Those students not receiving the required minimum score will take the assessment again during their junior year. Algebra II is a good review of all the concepts covered on the assessment.

Being able to make AYP has occurred through much training and preparation on the instructor's part and much work and studying on the student's part. In high school, students must pass each class in order to be able to take the next one. Since math concepts build on each other, students will be required to complete and hand in homework assignments each day. We encourage parents to ask their student if they have any math homework each night. Our book has an online tutor that can be accessed from any computer. Students and parents found this helpful last year. If students do not hand in a homework assignment, they will be required to remain after school to complete it. This policy worked well last year, and student achievement rose.

Kansas students are required to have three math credits in order to graduate. We offer Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry/College Algebra and Calculus/Elementary Statistics. For students wanting to take Trig/College Algebra as juniors and Calculus/Stats as seniors, they will take both Geometry and Algebra II as sophomores. Taking just one class per year will allow a student to take Trig/College Algebra their senior year.

During their junior and senior years, students will want to sign up to take the ACT exam. The ACT and the Kansas Math Assessment Test have much in common, so students in Kansas already know much of the material on the ACT.

We are looking forward to a great year! If you have any questions, please contact Miss Beisner or Mrs. Hanna at HCHS. The number is 421-2117. Email addresses are available on the school website www.usd281.com

Sincerely,

Parent _____

Student _____