

# Monroe Middle School

*“Home of the Eagles”*

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Dear Parents of Sixth and Seventh Graders:

District 200 will be implementing the new common core math standards next year (2013-2014) in grades K – 8. The math standards are more difficult and more advanced than what our students have had in the past. In fact, in many of the skills that were previously taught in pre-algebra are now part of the 6th grade curriculum.

We are working with all students to make sure their math skills are in place prior to taking Common Core Algebra (which is more rigorous than the Algebra we have now). Part of that preparation includes changing the range of classes that students take prior to Algebra. Currently, almost all students start Algebra during their 7th grade year by taking the first half of Algebra and then finishing in 8th grade. With our new courses, students will take a test during the 7th grade that determines whether or not they will take Algebra in its entirety during 8th grade or take it over the two years of 8th and 9th grade.

Sixth and seventh grade students will not be placed into classes by abilities other than for the gifted classes. Students will be assessed by their math teachers as new units and skills are introduced. Different amounts of support for learning or enrichment will happen within the classroom. We are giving all students the opportunity to master the new, more difficult standards prior to taking Common Core Algebra.

Should you have questions or need more information, please contact us at your convenience.