

HCL Parent Night
 December 16, 2020
 Questions from Chat & Discussion

General Questions:	
<p>Happy Valley is our neighborhood school, but we are enrolled in the BVL program this year.</p> <p>Is there a BVL HCL coordinator or is the HV HCL person our contact?</p>	<p>We will work to ensure BVL and BFPP students have the information disseminated to them and a contact for getting involved. The students will then, most likely, be designated to a group that has cross-school students involved.</p>
<p>Any parents on here, please consider joining our Facebook group to stay up to date on updates from the district too and connect with other parents: Parents & Supporters of Highly Capable Bellingham School District Students</p>	
Promise Tomorrow Initiative Questions	
<p>Will you proactively be reaching out to students when the 3rd and 4th quarter projects are due to be signed up?</p>	<p>We will ask our elementary HCL liaisons to communicate with students and families regarding sign up opportunities also, prior to sign up deadlines.</p>
<p>What grade does this start at?</p>	<p>Grades 3-12</p>
<p>Can you repeat who to contact if you are interested in volunteering?</p>	<p>Jennifer Gaer is our district volunteer coordinator.</p>
<p>Can these project deliverables be light on the writing and involve math or computer programming?</p>	<p>yes, the students can drive the focus! These are inquiry projects that are student developed so it is up to them; Students do drive the focus, but they will need to create a presentation (e.g., PowerPoint) to showcase their solution (and their solution could be related to technology, design, behavior, or multi-approach)so if a student is very interested in designing or using a computer program to solve their chosen issue, they certainly can. They are only limited by their imagination.</p>
Questions Re Math Circles	
<p>I wish there could be a district math circle, my freshman was really excited for math club. it is student run and there is no learning/discussion about how to improve problem solving skills.</p>	<p>I see a number of comments about providing opportunities for math circles - I'm thinking people are meaning optional opportunities for students to come together around math concepts and thinking. We are interested in trying to get something going in second semester for MS and HS, as interest shows. Please let us</p>

	know if you'd like to help us think about how to get that in place or be a part of making it happen.
My son would love to have a math circle where he can discuss and work on interesting problems without being graded. He is in high school. A district wide math circle would be a great idea!	
Other Topics	
Should we be hearing from the home room teacher or the coordinator re: HCL learning plan?	Please reach out to teacher /liaison about the SLP. Once written and complete, it will be posted into Skyward.
Can the AMC 10/12 be offered for high schoolers/ advanced middle schoolers? The AMC 8 was offered in November.	AMC 10/12 will be offered on a small scale, yes. Email Cindy.Thompson@bellingshamschools.org if you are interested.
Questions Re Math at Middle Level	
What is the URL for the information shared? Other resources referenced?	https://bellingshamschools.org/families/academics/middle-school-math-q/ These are the some of the books we are reading about our math instruction and considering our MS sequence in particular https://www.nctm.org/change/
My son is in 5th Grade, and he thinks that the 5th grade math curriculum is very easy. What should I do to help him during math class so that he won't complain?	https://mathathome.mathlearningcenter.org/ Many students who feel unchallenged may not be focused on the standards for mathematical practice but instead on the technical/computational skills of math. These standards endure regardless of the math content being learned and most students benefit from more work on these standards: http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Practice/ Also is this student taking advantage of DreamBox as it is adaptive and will meet the student where he is in relation to the standards? And does this student request access to Concept Quests from his teacher? These complex problems are great ways to develop those standards for mathematical practice.
Please start the messaging about when acceleration is recommended to families when their student is in 5th grade and then continue it into 6th/7th. The voice of the math teachers is missing when parents are	We appreciate this input. Will continue to message to our families and increase the understanding of our 5 th grade teachers. We are planning to hold forums in winter/spring to discuss middle school math trajectory.

<p>trying to navigate/understand the math trajectory of middle school. It is incredibly helpful to hear 'the why' as to why middle school math should not necessarily accelerated.</p>	
<p>What about the 1-2% of sixth graders who were identified to test into the compacted 7/8 in 6th grade? if that ship has sailed - is there anyway to provide enhanced math to those 6th grade students in the next blocks?</p>	<p>We will continue to work with Math 6 teachers and HCL team to support these students as they continue in Math 6 this year.</p>
<p>What differentiation will be available for high schoolers?</p>	<p>Teachers differentiate assignments and when in person can especially leverage vertical white boards thinking classroom strategies for differentiation. We also offer an array of courses in high school in math, science, STEM career and technical education that provide a wide range of opportunities for students.</p>
<p>What training are teachers currently engaged in that will enable them to embrace a new, differentiated classroom approach next year?</p>	<p>We so look forward to being back in person with our students. 😊 Middle school teachers are learning a new curriculum called Illustrative Mathematics. This curriculum provides great opportunities and resource for differentiation. In addition, we will continue to provide training in Concept Quets (Kim Markworth) and with Peter Liljedahl for Thinking Math classrooms http://www.peterliljedahl.com/presentations</p>