Friday, March 13, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If your child is within the boundaries for SPHS, he/she was sent home with registration and class information today.  If your child is within the boundaries for another high school in Escondido Union High School District (EUHSD) or has requested a school transfer, information will be given to you soon if you haven't yet received it.

I wanted to take a moment to clarify any misconceptions and assure you that your **children at SPU are on the best path possible, are ready for high school, and will be ready for college** (or a career) after high school.  Forgive me for the long explanation, but I want to be thorough.

CURRENT SITUATION

Your child has been receiving instruction under common core math standards for two years now.  This is going to be a HUGE advantage when they get to high school.  Many ninth graders will have had common core standards for only one year and some not at all.  But not our students!  **SPU students are more than prepared to enter high school mathematics.**

Before Common Core, or CCSS, students in eighth grade learned *only* *algebra*.  Geometry was saved until later and taught in isolation.  The same went for Algebra 2 and higher level math courses.  With the implementation of CCSS, standards were *re-arranged* so that students get a little from each strand each year.  There's a lot of research to support this switch, which I can share with you if you'd like.  With these changes, schools were encouraged to change the names of most of their courses. We no longer call 8th grade math "Algebra 1," because we are also including geometry and statistics.  It is now simply called Math 8.  In high school, courses are no longer called “Geometry,” or “Algebra 2,” because they include standards from other math areas as well. These classes are now called “Math 1,” “Math 2,” and “Math 3.” Some schools/districts will include the word “Integrated” in their class titles.

HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAYS

At SPU, we have worked closely with the directors of instruction at EUHSD to ensure our students are *more than prepared* for high school math. Regardless of which EUHSD high school your child will be attending, this will be his/her math pathway through high school.

9th Grade🡪 Math 1

10th Grade 🡪Math 2

11th Grade 🡪 Math 3

12th Grade 🡪Option for 4th year of study: Pre-calculus, Calculus, Trig, Statistics…

This is called the *Integrated Pathway.* It satisfies all of the college entrance requirements for UC and CSU schools. Each of the Math Integrated courses includes standards from algebra, geometry, algebra 2, and statistics. EUHSD will offer an “extension” track beginning in 10th grade which will include all of the Math 2 / Math 3 content as well as pre-calculus content.

Intervention and remediation will be available for students who need it.

You may have heard that some schools/districts did NOT implement CCSS as required this year. This means that their students are still learning material in the order it was taught *before* common core standards. To assist students at these schools, EUHSD will offer an algebra and geometry course for incoming ninth graders and they will continue on the *“traditional pathway”* throughout high school. This actually leaves these students at a disadvantage. Their options for a fourth year math course are limited to pre-calculus and calculus, which are appropriate for students interested in classical science and math disciplines, but not necessarily other disciplines. The content that students on the traditional pathway are learning will not align with state and federal standardized tests, including SATs and ACTs. After this school year, the traditional pathway will not exist anymore and is not an option for SPU students and not in their best interest.

In summary, I want to assure you that your child is on the right path for being successful in high school, college, and beyond. Our students at SPU have many advantages over students from other schools. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Buck

on behalf of the math team

Mrs. Lindsay Buck

Math Department Chair/Coordinator

San Pasqual Union School

Lindsay.Buck@SanPasqualUnion.net