

Rolland-Warner 6/7 Campus – Core Class Scheduling for 2019-2020 School Year

Hello parents and guardians of **current 5th grade students**. Schedules are created for next school starting in February. This is a long process that we spend a lot of time to very carefully place students in an environment that fits them academically. The purpose of this letter is simply to provide families and students with the criteria used to place students into their **core classes** (ELA, Math, and Science). All students will take Social Studies 6 as there is no advanced course. We like to be proactive with this because there are some upcoming tests that will influence the students' placement beginning when students return from the holiday break (**Winter MAP**). Counselors will be visiting students' classrooms in late January and early February to explain the scheduling process to them. Additionally, there is a scheduling night for parents at Rolland-Warner to answer any questions. The tentative dates for this are **January 30th from 5pm-6pm for Turrill families and February 13th (5pm to 6pm for Murphy & Mayfield; 6pm to 7pm for Lynch & Schickler)**.

Dr. Stanton, Principal

Rolland-Warner Middle School

ELA Placement



Core Classes Offered:

English 6 (general ELA)

Springboard 7 (advanced ELA)

Roughly 25% of incoming 6th graders will be placed into Springboard 7. This is an elite, advanced pre-AP program designed for students who excel in English/Language Arts. There are three pieces of data used to determine the students who are selected for this class. Each piece is ultimately weighted evenly and used. There is no "cut score" but rather a comprehensive evaluation done to properly place students in an academic environment that is appropriate based on this data. Students who do not qualify for Springboard 7, will be placed in English 6.

What pieces of information are used to place students in ELA?

- 1. M-Step ELA Score (taken last Spring)**
- 2. Winter MAP ELA Score (will be taken this January)**
- 3. Teacher Recommendation based on College and Career Readiness for Writing:**
 - Ability to write to convey complex ideas and information with support
 - Produce clear and coherent writing
 - Research information from multiple sources and support writing with analysis
 - Deep range that allows for extended writing periods

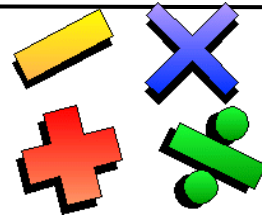
Math Placement

Core Classes Offered:

Math 6

Advanced Math 6

Math 7 (if selected for placement test)



Roughly 30% of incoming 6th grade students will be placed into Advanced Math 6. This class is for students who excel at Math and will accelerate them through the 6th grade curriculum at a faster pace allowing for more opportunities for extension activities and advanced concepts. There are three pieces of data used to determine the students who are selected for this class. Each piece is ultimately weighted evenly and used. There is a comprehensive evaluation done to properly place students in an academic environment that is appropriate based on this data. Students who do not qualify for Advanced Math 6 will be placed in Math 6. Some students (about top 10% based on achievement data) may be asked to take advanced placement tests that push them to Math 7, which would mean skipping a grade entirely.

What pieces of information are used to place students in Math?

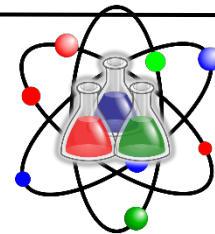
- 1. M-Step Math Score (taken last Spring)**
- 2. Winter MAP Math Score (will be taken this January)**
- 3. Teacher Recommendation based on Common Core Standards for Math Practice:**
 - Math reasoning and problem solving ability
 - Computation skills
 - Making sense of problems and persevering in solving them
 - Ability to attend to precision

Science Placement

Core Classes Offered:

Science 6

PLTW Advanced Science 6



Project Lead the Way (PLTW) includes 6th-8th grade topics as well as foundational units of the PLTW program including Automation and Robotics and Design and Modeling. Students can choose to be in PLTW with the understanding that it is a 2-year commitment. There is a strong reading component to the program. Any student who chooses to take PLTW MUST take a zero-hour, meaning they start school one hour earlier and have an extended school day.

Guided Academics for ELA & Math

Students who have a demonstrated need for additional academic support in ELA/Math may also be enrolled in a Guided Academics course for semester. **This course will take the place of an ELA elective or traditional elective.** All students who **are below the 40th percentile on their Winter MAP Math/ELA tests will qualify.** This course is designed to provide students with additional support in reading and writing, above and beyond what they will receive in the traditional ELA 6 class.



What about Elective Course Choices?



Don't worry! Students will have the opportunity to select one elective course at a later date. These courses are student choice and do not have any placement criteria. These courses include:

- Band
- Intro to Choir
- Teen Survival Skills
- Intro to Creative Writing
- Exploratory Art
- Exploratory Spanish
- Outdoor Education
- Coding
- Intro to Speech
- Exploratory French
- Service Learning
- Technology for Life
- Intro to Theater Arts
- As well as others...