

Murchison Middle School IB World School



MURCHISON
MIDDLE SCHOOL
AUSTIN Independent School District

Advanced Math Scholars Program 2019-2020 Application

3700 N. Hills Drive
Austin, TX 78731
(512) 414-3254

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Murchison Middle School's Advanced Math Scholars Program. These application materials will allow us to assess your qualifications and predict your potential success in our program. All information must be received before your application can be processed and reviewed. Your completed packet must be at our office at 3700 N. Hills Drive, Austin TX 78731 by 4:30 pm on 02/28/19.

Students must have a history of Advanced Performance on the math STAAR exam in order to apply. 5th grade math STAAR scores will also be considered once scores are reported. Students who have a documented history of test anxiety inhibiting test performance can only apply through an appeal process.

Description of the Program:

The Advanced Math Scholars program allows the gifted math student to take an accelerated advanced sequence of math courses. Students accepted into the Math Scholars Program will take IB Honors 7th grade math in 6th grade. The IB Honors 7th grade course accelerates learning of both 7th and 8th grade TEKS in one year. Students would therefore take the 8th grade STAAR test in the 6th grade. Upon successful completion of the IB Honors 7th grade math course in 6th grade, students would enter the High School Credit course, Algebra 1 during their 7th grade year, including taking the Algebra End-of-Course exam. The grade earned in the Algebra course will be reflected on students' high school transcripts. Successful completion of the Algebra course would allow students to take the high school credit course Geometry their 8th grade year. The grade earned in the Geometry course will also be reflected on students' high school transcripts. Since there is no End of Course exam for Geometry, and yet the state law requires 8th grade students to take the STAAR or EOC in math, students will take the 8th grade STAAR test a second time.

Application Process:

Students interested in the Advanced Math Scholars Program must have a history of advanced performance on math STAAR exams, an aptitude to grasp math concepts easily and quickly, and a desire to put in the time needed to be successful in the course. Students complete an application including a letter of interest, demonstration of math processing on a math problem, a teacher recommendation from their 5th grade math teacher, and an information form.

Application Instructions and Checklist:

Please return the *Application Form*, *Letter of Application*, and *Higher Level Thinking Math Problem* postmarked by 02/28/19 to:

Deanna Mahan
Murchison Middle School
3700 North Hills Drive
Austin, TX 78731

_____ 1. **Application Form:** Please make sure that this information is legible and accurate. Include your AISD student number that can be found on your report card. Your parent/guardian must sign this form.

_____ 2. **Letter of Application:** This letter, that is handwritten by you, explains your academic interests and why you want to be in our Advanced Math Scholars Program. Write in detail about your future aspirations and why this is important to you. Feel free to include anything else you think is important for us to know.

_____ 3. **Teacher Recommendation Form:** You must request a teacher recommendation form from your current math teacher. Have your teacher send the completed form to Ms. Mahan at Murchison via district mail. Your teacher can also complete the online version listed at the top of the recommendation form.

_____ 4. **Higher Level Thinking Math Problem:** Please solve this problem on your own so we can get an idea of your higher level thinking skills in math.

Our advanced academics team and I look forward to receiving your application. If you or your parents have any questions, please call our school at (512) 414-3254.

Sincerely,

Bradley Clark
Principal

Deanna Mahan
Lead Counselor

**Advanced Academic Programs Application Form
Murchison Middle School 2019-2020**

Student Name (print): _____

AISD Student Number: _____ Birthdate (mm/dd/yy): _____

Student Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Numbers:
Home/Cell: _____ Work: _____

Current School: _____

Requested Teacher Recommendation from : _____
name of current math teacher

I certify that the work contained in this application is the work of the student.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Student Signature

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent Signature

Austin Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, disability, or English language skills in its programs and activities.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Date Received: _____

**Advanced Academic Programs Math Problem
Murchison Middle School 2019-2020**

The student should solve this problem on their own showing all work in the space provided.

How many cereal boxes will it take to fill your bedroom?

Advanced Academic Programs Letter of Application Prompt Murchison Middle School 2019-2020

This handwritten letter by you explains your academic interests and why you want to be in the Advanced Math Scholars program. Write in detail about your future aspirations and describe to us who you are as a math learner and student. This letter should be 1-2 pages in length.

Listed below are a few questions to guide your letter. Not all questions need to be addressed, nor do you have to answer these specific questions. Reminder you should be writing a letter and not just answering questions.

- What makes you want to be part of this advanced academic program?
- What do you think this program will do for you?
- What are your strengths as a student?
- What do you need to improve to become the student you would like to be?
- What are you willing to do to overcome any trouble you have in your difficult areas of study?
- What or who has inspired you to pursue these advanced learning opportunities?

**Advanced Academic Programs Teacher Recommendation Form
For Accelerated Math
Murchison Middle School 2019-2020**

Please return via campus mail to Deanna Mahan, Murchison MS.

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Current School: _____

Please evaluate the student in relation to other students of the same age/grade and check the appropriate box for each item below. Responses are confidential and will not be shared with student/family/guardian.

AISD Student ID # _____		Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent (top 10% this year)	One of the best I've ever taught!
Academic Ability	Overall Academic Performance					
	Oral Communication Skills					
	Learns New Material Quickly					
Work Ethic	Motivation					
	Behavior					
	Responsibility					
	Empathy					
	Cooperation					

Peer Relationships	Peer Interactions					
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Additional Comments (optional):