Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Accelerated Courses at Ida Price

Q: How is an accelerated course different from other courses?
A: The accelerated class moves at a rapid pace and is extremely rigorous. Typically less than 10% of 5th graders are eligible. Accelerated courses cover the same grade level standards as non-accelerated courses. Students who do well in accelerated courses share these characteristics:

- Capable of intense effort
- Exceeds requirements for assignments
- Self-motivated and enjoys self-directed learning
- Organizes their time well, can juggle multiple projects at once with ease
- Motivated by a need to learn, not just achieving a certain grade
- Discusses in detail, elaborates
- Draws inferences and constructs abstractions from information, manipulates information for further understanding
- Thrives on complexity (not easily overwhelmed or discouraged by the unknown)

Q: My child is in GATE. Does that mean they are automatically placed in accelerated courses?
A: No. Although students who qualify for GATE and students who qualify for accelerated may share some similar traits, they are not synonymous. Teachers differentiate instruction in the classroom for their GATE students. In addition, there are extended day opportunities for GATE students.

Q: How do you determine which students qualify for accelerated?
A: Students qualify for the accelerated courses based on ELA and Math Common Core-aligned assessments. Scores are compiled and the data is used to determine the list of students eligible for the accelerated classes. Students who are determined not to be eligible will have an opportunity to qualify in future grades. Teacher recommendation may occasionally be used in addition to assessment scores for borderline cases.

Q: Why aren’t there more accelerated courses?
A: Every effort is made to place students who are eligible in accelerated courses. Typically less than 10% of students qualify for accelerated courses. The advent of the Common Core State Standards has increased the rigor and complexity of our curriculum in all of our classrooms.

Q: My child is a 6th grader and does well in math but not ELA. Why do 6th grade students have to qualify for both ELA and Math accelerated courses?
A: 6th grade is a crucial year of transition for 6th graders. We go to great lengths to ensure that they transition successfully to the middle school environment. This includes teacher teaming: your 6th grader’s math/science teacher teams with their ELA teacher and both teachers see the same cohort of students. In 7th and 8th grade classes, students can participate in ELA accelerated and/or math accelerated if they are eligible.
Q: Will my child lose access to high school classes if they do not participate in accelerated?
A: Students who do not participate in accelerated courses will still have the opportunity to accelerate at the high school level. An example of the Math Pathways for Campbell Union High School District may be found at: http://prospect.cuhsd.org/cms/lib2/CA01001603/Centricity/Domain/362/CUHSD%20Math%20Pathways.pdf.

Q: If my child does not qualify in 6th grade, will they have the opportunity to qualify in 7th or 8th grade?
A: Yes, students have the option to retest in subsequent grades for the Math Accelerated course. Here are the math pathways for Price as students progress from 6th through 8th grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 6</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Grade 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• CC Math 6</td>
<td>• CC Math 7</td>
<td>• CC Math 8</td>
<td>• Integrated Math I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CC Math 6 Accelerated</td>
<td>• CC Math 7/8 – covers Math 7 &amp; ½ of Math 8</td>
<td>• CC Integrated Math I</td>
<td>• Integrated Math II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• CC Integrated Math I</td>
<td>• Integrated Math III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of students from the first bullet point in the grade 6 column will progress to the first bullet point of the grade 7 column for the following year, the majority of students from the 2nd bullet point from grade 6 column will progress to the 2nd bullet point of grade 7 column for the following year, etc.