

Mt. Pleasant High School

FROM: Dr. John Gunn, Principal
DATE: May 6, 2015
SUBJECT: ALGEBRA 1 at MPHS

Dear Prospective MPHS parent,

Good afternoon! What a beautiful day to be alive!

I write to clear up a misperception that has developed regarding the teaching of Algebra 1 at our school. It is commonly being reported that we REQUIRE students who took Algebra 1 as 8th graders to retake Algebra 1 as freshman. This is simply NOT the case.

Please allow me to explain what we are doing in terms of Algebra 1 and math in general at our school.

We do encourage students to retake Algebra 1. It is part of our overall Advanced Math path we have here.

The thinking is this:

- It will allow your child to go deeper into the concepts of Algebra 1.
- It will allow your child to be able to take one additional math Honors course thus increasing the chance for increased class rank
- It will help your child to be even better prepared for higher level/AP math courses
- It will help your child to be better prepared for the math portion of the ACT
- It will allow one additional Honors class to be on your child's transcript

Also our teachers in math are exceptional teachers. I mean each year their students make multiple years of growth. They do this year after year. I have asked them if I can share their scores with you and when it is convenient for you I would love to sit down with you and share some of their spectacular scores which will benefit your child.

I strongly believe it would be in your child's best interest to retake the course. However, if you do not desire that, it simply will not happen, period. Please understand this. They will in no way be forced to do this.

Let me know if you would like to sit down and talk through this. I have stated my case but I want you as a parent to buy into it as well.

Thanks so very much for your time! Have a nice rest of the day!

Respectfully,

John Gunn