

To: **Prospective Algebra II students** in the MLWGS Class of 2021

Dear student,

Congratulations on your acceptance to Maggie Walker and welcome to the MLWGS family. The information in this letter is for students who are planning to take Algebra II next year. Please disregard this letter if you are not taking Algebra II next year.

We are asking you to take an Algebra placement test by April 18<sup>th</sup> (before registering for classes) to help you decide whether to take Algebra II Honors or Algebra II Honors **Plus** next year. The Plus class moves at a faster pace and has greater depth than the Honors class. We assume students in this class do not need review of Algebra I topics and have a high interest in mathematics. Earning an A in Algebra I does not mean you are necessarily ready for the Plus class.

### **STEP ONE: TAKE THE TEST**

**Directions for taking the test:** The test problems are located on the Maggie Walker website: [mlwgs.com](http://mlwgs.com). Click on the link for **Academics**, and then choose **Mathematics** to find the placement test. Print the test if you wish and feel free to use scratch paper. If you do not see the mathematical connectives (for example: +/-), then you likely need to update your Adobe reader. Work through the 50 problems **without** using a calculator (**NO CALCULATOR PERMITTED**). You should spend no more than 1 hour and 15 minutes (75 minutes) on the test. You should not look over the test in order to review prior to taking the test. Do the test in one sitting!

### **STEP TWO: ENTER YOUR ANSWERS and EVALUATE THE RESULTS**

**Directions for entering answers:** After completing the test, you need to submit your answers using the following link: <http://www.quia.com/quiz/6298018.html>. **Be sure to enter your name!!** When completed, you will immediately receive a score and will be able to see which problems you missed. You should use these results to make your decision about which level to take. Here is what you should consider:

- 1) If you scored at least 40 correct and you want to take the Plus class, we will recommend you.
- 2) If you scored between 35 & 40, look at your mistakes. Did you not understand several concepts or struggle on several problems? Did you have trouble completing the test in time? If you answer yes to any of these, you should probably not take the Plus class. Otherwise, you have a borderline score and may be ready for the Plus class. Discuss your decision with your parents and the math teachers available at freshman registration.
- 3) If you scored below 35, you are probably not ready for the Plus class.

Make sure you complete the test before registering for classes (prior to April 18<sup>th</sup>). We realize one test cannot fully determine your readiness for the Plus class. It is best for you to be in the right class from the start. If you find during the first nine weeks that the Plus class is the wrong class, the counseling department will see if there is space available for you to make a switch to the Honors class; though there are no guarantees. Please share this letter with your parents and discuss your decision with them. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at [chill@gsgis.k12.va.us](mailto:chill@gsgis.k12.va.us). You may also talk to a math teacher at freshman registration on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Connie L. Hill, Maggie Walker Math Department Chair