

To: Prospective Algebra II students in the MLWGS Class of 2019

From: John Walter, Maggie Walker Math Department Chair

Dear student,

First of all, I want to congratulate you on your acceptance to Maggie Walker and welcome you 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 26th (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 that the 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, as almost all our incoming ninth graders have an A in Algebra I.

STEP ONE: TAKE THE TEST

Directions for taking the test: The test problems are located on the Maggie Walker website: 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. 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. 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/4179124.html>. Be sure to enter your name on the quiz. 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, we recommend the Plus class.
- 2) If you scored between 35 & 40, look at your mistakes. Did you not understand several concepts? Did you struggle on many of the 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.
- 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 27th). We realize that one test cannot fully determine your readiness for the Plus class. That is why we leave the decision on which class to take up to you. If you find during the first nine weeks that you are in the wrong class, the counseling department will help you make a switch. However, it is better for you to be in the right class from the start. 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 jwalter@gsgis.k12.va.us. You may also talk to a math teacher at freshman registration on April 27th.

Sincerely,

John Walter, Math Department Chair