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Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

To: Principals and Math Teachers

From: Sister Edward Quinn, IHM

Re: Honors Math Update; Acuity program

Date: September 12, 2016

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Honors Math

In the past few weeks, we have received several phone calls and e-mails from parents and principals inquiring about the criteria for Honors Math. Some parents question why their child has not been admitted to Honors Math. In other instances, we have parents who tell us that they are getting conflicting information from different sources as to the criteria used for Honors Math.

The elementary Honors Math program is now in its 31st year in the Archdiocese. The program has been a successful one. In addition to the high quality of teaching in the program, there has always been a consistency in adhering to the selection criteria for admission to the program and successful completion of the culminating standardized assessments. As published on the diocesan web site, the criteria for admission are the following:

- Consistent scores of 90 or above in the Math Composite Score for the Terra Nova Achievement Tests;
- Consistent scores of 80 or above in the Reading Component of the Terra Nova Test;
- Cognitive Skill Index of 125 (falling in the range of 125) in the InView ability test;
- Evidence of above average performance (85 or above) on the Math End-of-Level Mastery Test administered in June;
- Consistent grades of 90 or above in Math on the report card;
- Teacher recommendation indicating that the student's effort and study skills are of a quality suitable for participation in an honors program.

We are sometimes told that a school has an "accelerated" program. **We do not have any approved "accelerated" math programs in the Archdiocese other than the Honors Math program.** We cannot be a support to you when we receive questions and concerns about programs that are being run that are not in keeping with Archdiocesan policy.

Students who have reached the level of Algebra in eighth grade using our current curriculum are doing eighth grade Algebra, which is not the same as the Honors Algebra. Honors Algebra is much more challenging.