

## Rolland-Warner 6/7 Campus – Core Class Scheduling for 2018-2019 School Year

Hello parents and guardians of **current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students**. Surprisingly enough, it's time to start thinking about the transition to middle school already. Schedules are created for next school starting in February. This is a long process that we spend a lot of time to very carefully place students in an environment that fits them academically. This letter is the first of what we hope is a generous amount of communication on the transition process to Rolland-Warner. The purpose of this letter is simply to provide families and students with the criteria used to place students into their **core classes** (ELA, Math, and Science). All students will take Social Studies 6 as there is no advanced course. We like to be proactive with this because there are some upcoming tests that will influence the students' placement beginning when students return from the holiday break (**Winter MAP**). We will provide future communication including parent nights at Rolland-Warner to explain the process in more detail, but for now consider this more of a "heads up" that will hopefully make the transition smooth.

Dr. Stanton, Principal  
Rolland-Warner Middle School

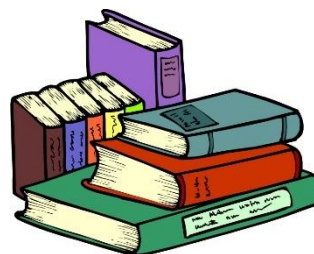
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### ELA Placement

#### Core Classes Offered:

English 6 (general ELA)

Springboard 7 (advanced ELA)



Roughly 30% of incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be placed into Springboard 7. This is an elite, advanced pre-AP program designed for students who excel in English/Language Arts. There are three pieces of data used to determine the students who are selected for this class. Each piece is ultimately weighted evenly and used. There is no "cut score" but rather a comprehensive evaluation done to properly place students in an academic environment that is appropriate based on this data. Students who do not qualify for Springboard 7, will be placed in English 6.

#### What pieces of information are used to place students in ELA?

- 1. M-Step ELA Score from Spring 2016 (taken last Spring)**
- 2. Winter MAP ELA Score (will be taken this January)**
- 3. Teacher Recommendation based on College and Career Readiness for Writing:**
  - Ability to write to convey complex ideas and information with support
  - Produce clear and coherent writing
  - Research information from multiple sources and support writing with analysis
  - Deep range that allows for extended writing periods

### Math Placement

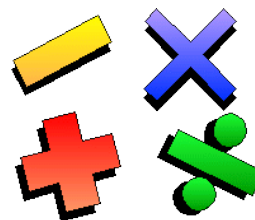
#### Core Classes Offered:

Math 6

Advanced Math 6

Math 7 (if selected for placement test)

Roughly 30-40% of incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be placed into Advanced Math 6. This class is for students who excel at Math and will accelerate them through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum at a faster pace allowing for more opportunities for extension activities and advanced concepts. There are three pieces of data used to determine



the students who are selected for this class. Each piece is ultimately weighted evenly and used. There is a comprehensive evaluation done to properly place students in an academic environment that is appropriate based on this data. Students who do not qualify for Advanced Math 6 will be placed in Math 6. Some students (about top 10% based on achievement data) may be asked to take advanced placement tests that push them to Math 7, which would mean skipping a grade entirely.

### **What pieces of information are used to place students in Math?**

- 1. M-Step Math Score from Spring 2016 (taken last Spring)**
- 2. Winter MAP Math Score (will be taken this January)**
- 3. Teacher Recommendation based on Common Core Standards for Math Practice:**
  - Math reasoning and problem solving ability
  - Computation skills
  - Making sense of problems and persevering in solving them
  - Ability to attend to precision

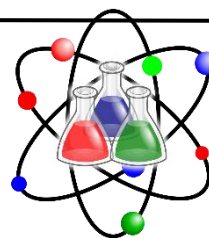
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## **Science Placement**

### Core Classes Offered:

Science 6

PLTW Advanced Science 6



Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a rigorous program of coursework that includes 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade topics as well as foundational units of the PLTW program including Automation and Robotics and Design and Modeling. Students can choose to be in PLTW with the understanding that it is a 2-year commitment. There is a strong reading component to the program. Any student who chooses to take PLTW MUST take a zero-hour, meaning they start school one hour earlier and have an extended school day.

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## **Guided Academics for ELA**

Students who have a demonstrated need for additional academic support in ELA will also be enrolled in a Guided Academics course for semester. **This course will take the place of an ELA elective.** All students who **are below the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile on their Winter MAP ELA test will be enrolled in the Guided Academics ELA course.** This course is designed to provide students with additional support in reading and writing, above and beyond what they will receive in the traditional ELA 6 class.



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## **What about Elective Course Choices?**



Don't worry! Students will have the opportunity to select elective courses at a later date. These courses are student choice and do not have any placement criteria. These courses include:

- Band
- Intro to Choir
- Teen Survival Skills
- Intro to Creative Writing
- Exploratory Art
- Exploratory Spanish
- Outdoor Education
- Computer Coding
- Intro to Speech
- Amusement Park Math
- Service Learning
- Technology for Life
- Intro to Theater Arts
- As well as others...