

Dear Students and Parents,

As you begin to think about your courses for next year, we wanted to inform you of some changes in the math curriculum at Runnels, as well as the changes in the requirements for graduation being implemented by the State of Louisiana. Starting with this year's ninth grade class, students will be required to complete 4 units of high school level math in order to earn a diploma. Because of this change, we are introducing two new courses, Algebra I Part 1 and Algebra I Part 2. These classes will cover the material from the traditional high school Algebra I class over a 2 year period. Emphasis in these classes will be on intensive practice of algebra skills and presentation of material beginning at a concrete, visual level moving to symbolic algebraic representation of ideas. Each class will earn  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a complete math credit, resulting in 1 complete unit in high school math over the two year period. Of course, we will still offer the traditional one-year Algebra I course. We will no longer be offering 8<sup>th</sup> grade pre-algebra. Our hope is to help students begin their completion of the math requirements in a timely manner and to achieve at a successful level.

In addition, Runnels will begin offering a math lab course both in the summer and during the regular school year. Math lab will employ an individualized interactive learning program that will address particular weaknesses of each student and will also allow failing students to earn credit for the following classes: Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. It will be optional for students achieving in levels above C-. For those whose achievement falls at C- or below, math lab will be a requirement. Students in math lab will also be concurrently enrolled in the next math class. If a student does not want to give up an elective for math lab, we will offer math lab at zero hour as well as during the day. At the end of the year, we will review each student's achievement and let you know what will be required of your student. There will be a reasonable additional charge for students who register for math lab in the summer, but not for the regular school year. A certified math teacher will direct the math lab class including evaluation and grade assignment for students. Our present plans are to offer the first semester courses during 4 weeks of June and the second semester courses during 4 weeks of July. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Rebecca Morrison  
Curriculum Director

Elizabeth Novak  
Math Dept. Head