



MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

STAGE 6

Accelerated Progression Program Gifted and Talent Students

**St Mark's
Coptic Orthodox College**

Accelerated Progression Program
Gifted and Talent Students

1.1 Accelerated Progression at St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox College is essential for our students who are very talented in Mathematics and the College considers them "Gifted and Talented Students" whose needs have be catered for.

1.2 Some typical attributes of these gifted and talented students include:

- i) The ability to discuss complex ideas and concepts;
- ii) The ability to work independently, to be self-critical and to strive for perfection;
- iii) The ability to apply learning and knowledge from one situation to another;
- iv) Quick mastery and recall of factual information;
- v) Enjoyment of Problem Solving.

1.3 Process of identifying and assessing gifted and talented students at St. Mark's Coptic College;

- i) Our gifted and talented students possess, to an outstanding degree, potential and demonstrate ability in Mathematics;
- ii) Teachers' professional observation of performance from K - 6;
- iii) Parent's observation;
- iv) Peer observation;
- v) Cumulative school history of these students from K-6;
- vi) Interviews with students and their parents;
- vii) Standardised achievement tests from K- 6;
- viii) Teacher-devised tests from K- 6.

Selection of Students for Accelerated Progression

Accelerated progression is a placement strategy available only to appropriate students as determined by St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox College, drawing upon the advice of others and of these guidelines as appropriate.

Acceleration is a strategy appropriate for outstanding or exceptional students.

The basis for selection

In selecting appropriate students for accelerated progression, a wide range of factors are considered including:

- academic capacity;
- school performance;
- early achievement of the required outcomes stated for their particular curriculum stage according to the Board of Studies syllabus;
- social adjustment;
- emotional readiness for the acceleration proposed and;
- future patterns of study.

Assessing capacity for acceleration

Measures that are used to assess capacity for acceleration include:

- standardised tests of achievement and general ability;
- multi-dimensional testing;
- behavioural checklists;
- reports from primary class teachers;
- products and performance;
- class grades;
- interviews with the student;
- interviews with the student's parents/guardians;
- evidence of any academic prizes or awards the student has received.

Determining emotional and social readiness

The emotional and social readiness of a student for acceleration are determined in a number of ways including:

- observation of interactions with peers over a reasonable time period;
- evidence of the student's maturity, social skills and participation in activities beyond the school environment, e.g. out-of-school hobbies, interests, participation;
- the student's level of self-esteem and motivation;
- consideration of the student's adjustment to problems and decision-making skills;
- the student's participation in extracurricular school activities;
- the relative benefits of acceleration versus enrichment;
- anecdotal evidence from teachers and parents.

Recording student progress

A comprehensive record of all students who are being accelerated is maintained. Supporting documentation on each record should show evidence over time of the suitability/necessity for accelerated progression. That is, it should reveal a trend extending back beyond the current year, without requiring an exhaustive dossier over too long a period of time.

Transition from Primary to Secondary (Stage 3 to Stage 4)

St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox College is a K-12 school which is essential if students are to have a natural progression from Kindergarten to Year 12. The College provides an excellent educational environment in which to implement accelerated progression.

New Students

Year 7 - 2010

Week 5
Term1 - 2010

Common Test One - Grading Test

7M1

7M2

7M3

Week 9 Term 1 - 2010

Common Test TWO - Grading Test

7MAC

7M2

7M3

Semester One Grading Exam Week 9 Term 2

Year7 Acc.

7M2

7M3

Year 8 Common
Test Three, Four
and Semester Two
Exam

Year 7 - topic Tests and Semester Two Exam

At the end of 2010, students **who have not performed well in Year 8 Exams will join Year 8M2 in 2011**, however, the rest of the class will start the Year 9 Course in 2011 aiming for this group to sit the School Certificate in Mathematics at the end of 2012 (while they're in Year 9 school year) only if they achieve Band 5 or 6 at school level, otherwise they will not sit for the School Certificate this year and will do it the year after.

In 2013 the group will study the Year 11 (Mathematics and EXT1 Course) while they are in the Year 10 School year, and depending on their achievements, the Maths Department will decide on who will be sitting for the HSC exams in Year 11 (school year) and which level of Mathematics.

The number of students in the accelerated classes will be limited to 15 students, unless any student shows an outstanding talent and extraordinary performance from other classes then the number of the students can be adjusted to cater for that student/s.

The maximum number of accelerated students in EXT2 Course in Year 11 will be limited to 5 students.

Accelerated Students must achieve above 90% in 2 unit in order to sit for the HSC 2unit Exam in Year 11 and must achieve above 85% in EXT.1 school assessments in order to sit for the HSC EXT.1 Exam in Year 11.

Students who are Accelerated in EXT. 2, must show an outstanding and an extraordinary performance in all levels, (above 95% in 2unit and above 90% in EXT.1 and maintain average marks of 75% in EXT.2 in all Assessments).

Students who are being accelerated in all years must maintain a well balanced approach toward their studies in all KLA's. If a student is found to be struggling or neglecting other subjects, that student will be given a warning, after which if this situation is not rectified, they will be removed from this program.