



NEWCHAMP: Newaygo Cooperative Highly Academic Mathematics Program 2011

Audience: Ten (10) students in grades 7 and 8 participated in the charter year of the NEWCHAMP program. Two (2) students were in grade 7, eight (8) students in grade 8. Seven (7) of the students were female, three (3) were male. Eligibility criteria for CHAMP is SAT Math score of 530 and a Total score of 1010, ACT Math score of 21 and a Composite score of 23.

Funding: Tuition was paid by the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency for all students. Student tuition is used to support the remaining program costs. Support from the MSU Mathematics Department provides partial support for a professor for 2 1/2 hours of instruction each Tuesday afternoon.

Objectives: This program seeks to

- * identify 6th—8th grade students who reason extremely well mathematically;
- * develop their mathematical potential through classroom use of appropriate curriculum and instructional pacing commensurate with their abilities;
- * demonstrate that, with careful joint planning and coordination, existing community resources and multiple school systems can cooperate to meet successfully the needs of highly gifted students within the framework of the regular school day.

Students completing NEWCHAMP are expected to return to their home school and take AP calculus. They should then consider dual enrolling at their local university or college for additional math coursework.

Description: Year I of NEWCHAMP covers Algebra I and Algebra II Year II and a unit of Statistics. NEWCHAMP Year II would cover Geometry a standard pre-calculus course of Trigonometry, Analytic Geometry, College Algebra and a brief introduction to calculus concepts. Students attend class Tuesday afternoon from 12:30—3:00. The class is instructed by a part time Michigan State University mathematics instructor. Class size is limited to 20 students. Additional study sessions are held Thursday afternoons at Newaygo County RESA. Students also have access to LON-CAPA and the MSU Math Forum for 24/7 online assistance. A prep session is held the last week in August, bringing students to campus to set up their MSU e-mail and NetID and a walk through campus to their classroom. Thirty-six (36) students applied for NEWCHAMP Year 1, seventeen (17) were accepted into the program. There is 127.5 hours of contact time in this program including labs.



Outcome: The NEWCHAMP program proved to be extremely difficult for students. The previous program at Newaygo County RESA did not require the higher academic standards of the CHAMP programs and as students progressed through the second semester of the program, where material covered was all new, students could not adapt to the expected pace of NEWCHAMP. Students didn't take advantage of the support study session or online sessions. At the conclusion of the program's first year, it was decided to have students return to the previous program model and provide Algebra II material to ensure students earned credit for this course.

Additional Significant Information: Due to the fact that NEWCHAMP did not succeed, changes were implemented to ensure that students applying to future CHAMP programs understand curriculum demands and instructor expectations. Students who had "borderline" test scores would be interviewed before acceptance into CHAMP programs. Parents of these students are asked to discuss the program's rigor before allowing their child to participate.

There were problems with Newaygo County schools "buying in" to the program. Although presentations were available to school administrators, only one school elected to inform parents of this program. In summer 2012, Lapeer County RESA contacted the GATE Office to implement a program to replace NEWCHAMP. These new changes applied to LCHAMP 2012-2013.

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