MEMORANDUM

TO: Local District Teachers

FROM: Kathee McDonald

SUBJECT: Participation in CHAMP by ___________________________

DATE: August, 2007

The Cooperative Highly Accelerated Mathematics Program (CHAMP) is about to begin its 21st year of serving mathematically talented students in the greater Lansing area. The above-named student plans to participate in CHAMP throughout this academic year, which means he/she is taking on a tremendous challenge. I thought it would be helpful for you, a fellow educator, to know what it means for a student to participate in CHAMP and how this will impact your class.

CHAMP is patterned after a model in existence at the Johns Hopkins University since 1971. Students are invited to participate in CHAMP if they are in the top ½ of one percent of students their age in mathematical ability. This is determined by giving potential students, who are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, an off-level test: the SAT. If the younger students are able to score as well on the math portion of the SAT as the average college-bound junior or senior, they qualify for CHAMP. The scores they must achieve are at least a 530 math score and at least a 1010 total score (verbal plus math). These scores indicate that the student has exceptionally high understanding and reasoning ability in mathematics.

Students who are accepted into CHAMP attend class on Thursday afternoons, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., at Michigan State University, and are assigned about eight hours of homework to support what they are taught in class each week. They study Algebra 1 the first semester and Algebra 2 the second semester. During the second year of CHAMP they study Geometry the first semester and Algebra 3/Trigonometry the second semester. As you can imagine, CHAMP is an extremely challenging and demanding program.

This memorandum is to inform you as to why the above-named student will be missing your class on Thursdays. The student isn’t absent, because this is part of his or her regular schooling. We ask CHAMP students to be sure to check with their afternoon teachers regarding work they will miss so they don’t fall behind. We also ask that you please consider the CHAMP student’s schedule when you give tests or during other situations when it is especially important for the student to be in class. It would also be appreciated if you would acknowledge that you realize the student is going above and beyond the normal educational challenges, which is certainly an admirable characteristic we’d like to promote in all of our students.