



**Blue Valley Parent Advocates for
Gifted Education**

**BVPAGE Acceleration Survey Results
For:
CHOSE NOT TO ACCELERATE**

**Individual Responses: Survey responses
for each respondee**

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Survey Overview

This survey was created and conducted by the Blue Valley Parent Advocates for Gifted Education (BVPAGE). We are a parent support group in the Blue Valley school district in Johnson County Kansas. The Survey was conducted from July 2016 through January 1, 2017.

The survey was open to anyone in any geography but the majority of respondents seem to be from our Blue Valley school district. We do know of several other districts who have parents/students that also completed the survey(s).

Any questions or permission to use the survey data may directed to WWW.BVPAGE.ORG using the *Contact the President* link.

The following information appeared before the survey questions and describes our intent to gather information, experiences, considerations, advantages, and disadvantages of whole grade or single subject acceleration.

Choose Not to Accelerate

Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

This survey is being conducted to gather information to assist families who are considering acceleration (either to skip a whole grade or to skip a single subject only). We believe parents and students need information from multiple sources on acceleration so they can make an informed decision. We are looking for those who did not accelerate when given the option so we can pass your experiences and opinions on to others who are offered acceleration as an option. We thank you for your insight and time.

These survey questions are for those who chose **not to accelerate** either in an individual subject or a whole grade. These questions may be filled out by either the student or the parent/guardian. We are looking for all age ranges, school buildings, and school districts.

Please fill out the survey as a PARENT/GUARDIAN if you are filling out the survey to provide your opinions on your child's acceleration.

Please fill out the survey as a STUDENT, if you are the student who did not accelerate, if you are an adult and you were not accelerated based on a decision made for you as a student, or if you are filling out the survey for a younger child and they are providing the answers.

This report contains the individual survey responses for those who chose not to accelerate.

Response 1

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Saturday, July 23, 2016 3:34:06 PM
- **Last Modified:** Saturday, July 23, 2016 3:39:17 PM
- **Time Spent:** 00:05:11

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Female

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

10

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:10

- Grade:skip 5th and go directly to 6th

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- What advantages did you consider?aggressive challenges

- What disadvantages did you consider?social -- no friends in class

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

She didn't need the extra challenge. I had to work with her to do multiplication table drills. Didn't want her to lose confidence in math, wanted a solid foundation.

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

It would be great if I could read quotes from kids who had skipped 5th grade math to discuss their experience. Any regrets? What was good?

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

Yes, although I haven't actually experienced the skipping/not skipping yet. While it would be great for her to get ahead, she's overall fragile in her confidence. She may not speak up if she was unhappy.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

I wish I had a handout to read and share with my spouse about it and kids' experience. Why did they do it? Was it extremely difficult?

Response 2

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Monday, July 25, 2016 12:03:00 AM
- **Last Modified:** Monday, July 25, 2016 12:12:20 AM
- **Time Spent:** 00:09:19

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Female

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

14

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:13

- Grade:8th

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- What advantages did you consider? Meeting her academic needs

- What disadvantages did you consider? Skipping a year of curriculum - namely Algebra

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

Testing out of a year's worth of Algebra would require preparation even for gifted youth. I feel like the current process sets the students up for failure.

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

I would have appreciated knowing in the fall, so she could study needed material. She has the ability but to test out of a year's worth of Algebra without being taught formulas etc is not attainable.

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

My regret is that the system isn't better geared toward meeting the kids' academic needs.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

I taught 8th grade math - regular and accelerated - in two nationally recognized school districts. The process bvsd uses only works for students who know they are going to take the test and, therefore, prepare for it. The district desperately needs a better process for meeting kids' academic needs

Response 3

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Monday, July 25, 2016 9:11:45 AM
- **Last Modified:** Monday, July 25, 2016 9:20:21 AM
- **Time Spent:** 00:08:35

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Male

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

17

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Whole grade

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:6

- Grade:Kindergarten

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**Able to work on a higher level that he was ready for.

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**Whole grade didn't seem enough academically, but seemed okay socially.

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

Age beginning college. Leaving peers who he was attached too.

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

What we didn't know was that the teacher of the class he was accelerated to was highly opposed to acceleration and made it impossible for him to be successful in her class.

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

It was the best decision. We ended up moving to a more challenging school district that was able to meet most of his needs through their gifted program.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

Everyone involved must be willing to support the decision. It is unfair to accelerate a child into a classroom where the teacher is set on sabotaging his/her efforts.

Response 4

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Thursday, July 28, 2016 10:06:48 PM
- **Last Modified:** Thursday, July 28, 2016 10:21:53 PM
- **Time Spent:** 00:15:05

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Male

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

11

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Whole grade

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:5

- Grade:K

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**It would put him with more advanced peers, but moving to 1st grade and skipping K would not have been enough to get him with academic peers.

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**He was/is socially lacking and not at the same level as some of the K peers (some were almost a year older which made it hard to - he is April and there were several May/June/July that were held back a year before starting K). I did not want him that young in high school and did not believe that the social obstacles would be better than the academic obstacles.

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

I wished I would have known how difficult the school would be about getting accelerated or more focused academics for him. The school now refuses subject acceleration or even accomidations to keep him challenged. The gifted program, once we finally got past all the loopholes, has only provided a pull out which has done nothing academically for him, but has helped his emotional and sensory overload in the regular classroom.

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

In the long term, yes, I still think it is best due to how young he would be in comparison to his classmates. But as I see him grow and we work through dealing with the social, I suspect he would be fine in high school being younger because he is strong and solid as long as we can stay on top of the bullying and treatment due to being different than the "normal". Teaching him to embrace his differences and yet be aware of them is something to strive for and may have changed our decision knowing it now.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

Respondent skipped this question

Response 5

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Monday, August 15, 2016 8:48:24 AM
- **Last Modified:** Monday, August 15, 2016 9:05:52 AM
- **Time Spent:** 00:17:27

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Male

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

12

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:11

- Grade:6th

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**The idea was presented as a possibility for more challenging work for my son.

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**I was concerned about skipping content and how that would impact future learning. Since the Kansas 8th grade standards have what used to be the content in Algebra 1, I wanted to make sure he got the pre-algebra content in 6th and 7th grade.

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

College professors are recommending that students not take Calculus in high school. They said many have to retake it if they do because they they are taking a specialized version (i.e. Business Calc, Engineering Calc) or because they didn't get through all the material or understand it deeply enough to continue without retaking. I'd rather my son have a solid understanding and be prepared to be successful in future courses both in high school and college.

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

I would have liked to have known how the teacher could make the grade level work more challenging. His gifted instructor also initiated tasks and projects that allowed my son to apply 6th grade content in a variety of challenging tasks.

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

I do. My son is doing well and learning deeply. I have no regrets.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

The information about acceleration in math that KSDE has available provides good food for thought when considering this decision

Response 6

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Monday, August 15, 2016 8:37:29 PM
- **Last Modified:** Monday, August 15, 2016 8:39:53 PM
- **Time Spent:** 00:02:23

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Male

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

14

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- **Other (please specify)**NONE

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- **Age:**NA

- **Grade:**NA

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**Would have loved the option in math and science especially

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**Aspergers and adhd diagnosis

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

Had no choices because Olathe did not offer

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

Information to accelerate

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

That we were not offered the chance.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

flexibility

Response 7

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:52:39 AM
- **Last Modified:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 9:13:21 AM
- **Time Spent:** 04:20:41

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Male

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

10

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Whole grade

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- **Age:**8 years 10 months

- **Grade:**3rd

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**more challenge in the classroom, more learning to struggle/ask for help, possible improved social/emotional interactions (as cited in A Nation Deceived), great engagement in learning (not feeling bored/hating school), combating underachievement

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**short kid (would he fit in?), our son said he didn't want to accelerate because he would miss his friends, graduating from high school early (mixed feelings about this)

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

Iowa Acceleration Scale, clearer direction/unified suggestion of what to do from the educators/principal (they gave mixed signals)

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

I think if our son had been accelerated in K or 1st, we might have had a positive outcome. Acceleration came at a point in his education when we were desperate for help at school (really too late). Our son was underachieving in the classroom, miserable at school, complained he never learned anything at school. Not long after acceleration was offered we ending up homeschooling for a number of reasons, but one of greatest helps of homeschooling has been being able to accelerate our child in subjects where he was ready and give him more time in areas of weakness (like handwriting). Homeschooling (while going against every plan we had for our kid) ended up being one of the best decisions we've ever made for his education, at least for these early years. We chose to accelerate in math (in part hoping he might make some friends and then be ready to try full-grade acceleration). In that case, the teacher wasn't well prepared for the acceleration and wouldn't help us fill in gaps or understand when our son struggled, what was the cause and how we could help. We had terrible communication with that teacher. And then our son was required

to also do math in his homeroom classroom as well some days, again with no explanation to us as to why he had to do both 3rd and 4th grade math on a regular basis!

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

Respondent skipped this question

Response 8

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 3:52:43 PM
- **Last Modified:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 3:57:21 PM
- **Time Spent:** 00:04:37

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Female

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

11

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:11

- Grade:6

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- What advantages did you consider? Continuing to push her

- What disadvantages did you consider? Not being around her peers.

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

We have an older son that just graduated. He had an ACT of 29, but missed out on some scholarships due to Class Rank. He had taken honors classes and would have been awarded the scholarships if Class Rank would have been slightly higher. Kids with much lower ACT scores were ranked ahead of him due to their lack of a difficult schedule

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

Respondent skipped this question

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

yes, no.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

Respondent skipped this question

Response 9

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Wednesday, August 31, 2016 9:06:49 AM
- **Last Modified:** Wednesday, August 31, 2016 9:28:50 AM
- **Time Spent:** 00:22:01

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Male

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

17

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:11

- Grade:5

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**As a former teacher, I did not see any advantages to consider.

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**Being pulled out further from his peers, having to leave elementary and/or middle school to receive the acceleration (it can really mess up a kid's school schedule), and there are wonderful and hard opportunities in our District anyway.

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

Kids need to be kids. It is more important is raise a happy, well-adjusted, and involved child. Our kids face so many academic pressures as it is, they don't have to do everything. Learning how to achieve balance in life is a far greater lesson. My motto has become, "just because you can doesn't mean you have to."

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

No, not really. But one topic that does need to be addressed more before making this decision is the mental health component.

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

Yes! Absolutely no regrets!!!

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

When making the decision, question your own motives. What do you hope to accomplish by doing this? Is this really what's best for your child or is this what you want? Are there other outlets to benefit your child other than harder classes? Music? Tae Kwon Do? Activities through BV Rec or JCCC? Don't focus solely on their biggest strength, look at the big picture. Ultimately, help choose a path for your child that will lead them into the kind of adult you want them to become

Response 10

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Thursday, September 08, 2016 10:28:30 AM
- **Last Modified:** Thursday, September 08, 2016 10:29:37 AM
- **Time Spent:** 00:01:06

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Female

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

11

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:11

- Grade:5

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- What advantages did you consider? Continuing to push her

- What disadvantages did you consider? Staying with her class, GPA, Class Rank

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

Respondent skipped this question

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

Yes, No

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

Respondent skipped this question

Response 11

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Tuesday, September 27, 2016 6:58:41 AM
- **Last Modified:** Tuesday, September 27, 2016 7:00:34 AM
- **Time Spent:** 00:01:52

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Male

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

9

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Whole grade

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:6

- Grade:1

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- What advantages did you consider? More rigorous curriculum

- What disadvantages did you consider? My child's maturity and his interaction with older students

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

what would school be like when he was in high school at age 13

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

No

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

NO. Blue Valley provides opportunities for my child to be challenged

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

Respondent skipped this question

Response 12

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 9:30:58 AM
- **Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 11:11:54 AM
- **Time Spent:** 01:40:55

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Male

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

9

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Whole grade

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- **Age:**Every year since age 6

- **Grade:**Every year since 1st grade

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**Challenging him

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**His emotional age, the fact that even accelerating him one grade would not help

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

His leaving for college a year earlier

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

Nope

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

Yes, no regrets

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

There have been some comments made by our gifted teacher to our son that are not appropriate (such as "well if your parents had moved you up, then...")

Response 13

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016 8:25:15 AM
- **Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016 8:52:02 AM
- **Time Spent:** 00:26:46

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Female

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

16

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- **Grade:**5

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**would create room in schedule for additional math in high school, more math before standardized testing, extra challenges for our child

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**math is not her passion and she was not showing interest in accelerating, travel to/from middle school

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

At the time, other students were choosing not to accelerate in math and our child did not want to go alone to the middle school

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

Yes. Data. Information from older students regarding whether or not their decision affected their future academic and/or career plans.

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

No regrets. Once the decision was made, our child never mentioned it again and moved on to challenge herself in other areas of interest. Although math is very easy for her, she does not have a passion for it and will not be pursuing a career that requires additional math beyond Calculus. She will be able to take Calculus even though she did not accelerate.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

When making this decision, we remained focused on what was best for our child; nothing else is more important than that.

Response 14

COMPLETE

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 1:08:36 PM
- **Last Modified:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 1:34:23 PM
- **Time Spent:** 00:25:47

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Female

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

16

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Single subject: Math

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- **Age:**12 and 13

- **Grade:**6 and 7

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?**So she wouldn't be bored in math

- **What disadvantages did you consider?**No disadvantages except for having to go to high school in 8th grade and miss before school activities such as basketball, jazz band and percussion.

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

Whether or not acceleration made a difference in future interests or potential major in college or career choice (that were not math based)

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

I would have liked to talk to someone that knew my daughter's ability in math and her ability to learn quickly. Wish I received more information than just a letter. It would have been nice to have a team meeting.

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

Our regret was not following up. She did take the test again in 7th, but decided she really didn't want to skip 8th grade math at that point and miss out on early morning MS before school activities such as basketball, Jazz band and percussion ensemble.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

I was disappointed in the whole process as the test showed she already knew 85-90% of the math in 7th grade except for probability and statistics (scored 65% as she has never been exposed to it) and was denied acceleration but nobody followed up and talked to us or her current 6th grade math teacher who would still recommended she be accelerated. She was still really bored in 7th grade math and they never ended up teaching any probability and statistics in 7th. So she went through the whole year knowing 85-90% of all the math she was being taught and was bored. She was very skeptical and disillusioned on who actually was able to accelerate in math if she already knew most of all math they taught that year

Response 15

- **Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)
- **Started:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 4:40:13 PM
- **Last Modified:** Saturday, December 31, 2016 5:11:36 PM
- **Time Spent:** 00:31:22

PAGE 1: Survey for students or parents who Chose Not to Accelerate

Q1: I am a:

- Parent/Guardian

Q2: What is your/the student's gender?

- Female

Q3: What is your/the student's current age?

12

Q4: What type of acceleration was offered to you/your child?

- Whole grade

Q5: At what age and/or grade was the student offered acceleration as an option?

- Age:8

- **Grade:**3

Q6: Regarding acceleration,

- **What advantages did you consider?** Harder content than current grade

- **What disadvantages did you consider?** Our daughter's issue was really a pacing problem. Accelerating would be ok until she caught up and then she'd be in the same position. She'd be required to make a decision about a major and college with less experience. She would have physical mismatching (esp adolescence) than her current "peers" if she accelerated. She would be surrounded by older kids ready to delve into next stages of life, like dating perhaps, before she was...or she'd be dating a year earlier in an attempt to fit in or be matched. She'd play sports with kids - some nearly 2 years older - if she accelerated one year because of her birthday. She'd have one less year of gifted class, which seemed to be the one thing she loved. She'd have to leave home a year (or more earlier) or we'd have to sacrifice an away college because she'd be too young for us to feel comfortable (or legally signing documents, going to the doctor on her own, etc at under age 18 without a guardian). Her social struggles would be emphasized by adding an age difference to the list of vast differences between her and her peers. Our daughter enjoys being a leader and in top of her class; would it change her success and/or confidence to be with others closer to her level? Our gifted child preferred the company of MUCH older children or adults, so we had little confidence one year acceleration would change that.

Q7: What other factors did you consider regarding acceleration?

"Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell helped us understand that being smart isn't enough for a child to be successful. Our child needed, just as equally, to associate with kids of the same age to understand and get along with each other. Making her the baby of the class ahead of her would only add to this challenge of her peers accepting her and vice versa.

Q8: Is there any additional information you would have liked before making your decision?

I would've liked to know where my gifted child was at at her specific point of learning, as she was only tested at level or one grade above. Was she 4 grade levels above in math and 6 grade levels above in reading? Then, accelerating her one grade would not satisfy the problem.

Q9: Looking at your past decision not to accelerate, do you still think it was the best decision? Do you have any regrets?

No regrets. As our daughter ages into a teenager, we're thankful she's not surrounded by kids much older than she is, allowing her to be her age in other aspects than education. Our daughter has been successful at "selling her ideas", so to speak with peers her own age and to find ways to invoke justice with her peers. It took many struggles at the tetherball and four square courts, but has grown as a leader because of those challenges.

Q10: Is there any other information you wish to provide regarding your decision not to accelerate?

Whether you chose to accelerate or not, as long as your child's are your priority, you won't make the wrong decision. If you're undecided, I'd encourage you to explore ALL the options (which may or may not have been presented along with acceleration). Really analyze your child's needs and determine if acceleration meets that need