

SNOHOMISH SCHOOL DISTRICT #201
 Math Placements for Incoming 7th Graders—Spring 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians and Sixth Grade Students:

As we prepare for our 6th graders to enroll in math as 7th graders in middle school, we would like to communicate the math courses that are offered to our 7th grade students. Most students will take standard 7th grade math as 7th graders to establish a foundation for the pathway of math courses they will take through their secondary math careers. We also recognize that some of our students need additional enrichment in mathematics and therefore offer two other possibilities: 7th grade Accelerated Math and middle school Algebra. The content for each of these courses are described on the attached yellow student application. Below you will find the one- and two- year advanced tracks of our secondary math pathways. As you and your student consider the possibility of advanced placement in math, please consider the following information:

At the middle school level, making appropriate and responsible placement decisions for our students is critical for their future success in mathematics. For this reason, we have worked to develop a placement process using sound criteria and measures of student aptitude and performance in order to make placement decisions that are in the best interest of the student. Placing a student in a math class that does not match the student’s demonstrated level of performance, ability, and demeanor is not an opportunity for challenge and enrichment. Instead, the experience is often one of frustration and discouragement. Therefore, it is important to think carefully when deciding to apply into an advanced math course. Also, it is important to note that based upon recommendation by The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Washington State Learning Standards, **students should NOT skip any math level**. Due to the learning progression at each grade level, content is designed to build upon each succeeding grade developing a strong foundation of mathematical understanding for high school level math. (Note: Students who qualify for Algebra may opt to take 7th grade Accelerated Math.)

Another consideration when taking an advanced math course as a 7th grader is how that decision affects the selection of math courses for future years. The following is a table showing the possible pathways for math courses depending upon the levels of math taken in the middle school. **Each** pathway satisfies the minimum standards for high school graduation and college entry.

Secondary Mathematics Possible Pathways

GRADE LEVEL	At-grade level track		One-year advanced track		Two-year advanced track
7th grade	7th grade Math		7th grade Accelerated Math		Middle school Algebra 1
8th grade	8th grade Math		Middle school Algebra 1		Geometry
9th grade	Algebra 1		Geometry		Algebra 2 / Trig
10th grade	Geometry		Algebra 2	Algebra 2 with Trig	Pre-Calculus
11th grade	Algebra 2	Algebra 2 with Trig	Intermediate Algebra 2/Math in Society	Pre- Calculus	AP Calculus / AP Statistics
12th grade	Intermediate Algebra 2/ Math in Society	Pre- Calculus	Pre- Calculus	AP Calculus Or AP Stats	AP Statistics / AP Calculus

All interested 6th grade students are **invited to apply** for advanced placement in mathematics as 7th graders. Applications for students will be due **April 17, 2019**, submitted to your current 6th grade teacher. If your student intends to take standard 7th grade math, there is no need to complete and return the attached application. Completion of the student application makes a student eligible to take the district middle school placement test. This test will take place at your student's school during the week of **April 22 to 26**. The student's application and performance on the placement test will be reviewed by a collaborative team of the middle school math department chairs and the district math specialist. All students who apply will be sent letters stating their placement into the assigned math level by the **middle of May**. Students who do not complete an application and take the placement test will automatically be placed into standard 7th grade Math.

Considerations for advanced math placement: District Placement Test Score
6th Grade STAR test scores
5th grade SBA Score
Teacher recommendation (based upon evaluation form)

When the application is completed, please keep this pink letter for your information, and return the yellow application and blank white teacher evaluation form to your 6th grade teacher no later than **April 17, 2019**.

Students who are transferring into the Snohomish School District for the 2019-2020 school year should submit their application packet to Scott Bracken at the Snohomish School District Resource and Service Center, or it can be emailed to scott.bracken@sno.wednet.edu. Completed teacher recommendation forms for out-of-district students may be included with the application or sent directly to Scott Bracken. The placement test date for out of district applicants will be **Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 4 p.m.** at the Resource and Service Center (1601 Avenue D in Snohomish). Out-of-district students who submit applications by April 19 will be contacted directly with further testing information.

Questions may be referred to the middle school math department chairs: Jean Carwin, Valley View Middle School, (360) 563-3317; Leia Stevenson, Centennial Middle School (360) 563-4570; Scott Bracken, Curriculum and Instruction Specialist (360) 563-7375; or Melanie Harris, Curriculum and Instruction Specialist (360) 563-7378.

Thank You,

Scott Bracken and Melanie Harris
Teaching and Learning Services

Advanced Math Placement Timeline

- Monday, March 25: Applications available to all 6th grade students
- Wednesday, April 17: Completed Applications due to 6th grade teachers
- Week of April 22 to April 26: Placement Testing at individual schools
- Week of April 29 to May 3: Placement Teams meet to analyze scores and determine placements
- Wednesday, May 1: Placement test at RSC for students transferring to Snohomish School District
- Week of May 20: Placement Letters mailed home to all applicants

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APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT INTO 7th GRADE ACCELERATED MATH / ALGEBRA

Directions for application into 7th grade Accelerated Math or Algebra:

- Complete the student information on this form
- Students, please complete the “Student Self-Assessment” on the back of this form
- Keep the pink cover letter for your Information
- Return the remainder of the completed application (yellow and white pages) to your 6th grade teacher by **Wednesday, April 17, 2019**
- 6th grade teachers will complete the teacher evaluation (white page) after students have submitted their completed applications.

Student name _____ Middle school: _____

6th grade teacher _____ Current school: _____

Parent name _____ Parent signature _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Does the student have an IEP? _____ Does the student have a 504? _____

7th grade Math: This course will cover the core content as outlined by the Washington State Learning Standards for the 7th grade: ratios and proportional relationships, rational numbers operations, algebraic expressions and equations, angle measure/surface area/volume, statistics and probability. *This course has vital concepts that serve as a foundational basis for all future math courses.*

7th grade Accelerated Math: This course is an acceleration course that will prepare the student for Algebra the following year. It is based upon vital 7th and 8th grade Washington State Learning Standards for math: in addition to the 7th grade concepts (above) - linear equations, systems of equations and functions; properties and relationships in geometric figures; patterns of association in bivariate data. *Course pace is particularly rigorous to accommodate all necessary concepts and students are expected to be self-motivated.*

Middle school Algebra I: This course will cover the core content for the remaining 8th grade standards and all high school algebra 1 standards. The topics for this course are outlined by the Washington State Learning Standards for math - exponents, rational and irrational numbers; linear, exponential and quadratic functions; polynomial operations; solving systems of equations/inequalities; interpret categorical and quantitative data. *This course has advanced rigorous academic content and can qualify for a high school math credit.*

Here is the link to the Washington State Learning Standards for math:

http://www.k12.wa.us/Mathematics/pubdocs/CCSSI_MathStandards.pdf

Understanding that algebra I is a rigorous high school math course, some students may prefer to choose the 7th grade accelerated math option. **If I qualify for Algebra 1**, I would prefer to be placed into: (CIRCLE ONE)

7th grade Accelerated Math or Algebra 1

STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

Student name _____ Date _____

Current school _____ Teacher name _____

Student, please complete the following self-assessment by checking off what you feel best describes you.

	All of the Time	Most of the Time	Some of the time	Rarely	Comments
I attend class regularly.					
I am organized.					
I can generate numerous ideas and/or solutions to problems or questions.					
I clearly show my work to support problem-solving.					
I complete work on time.					
I have strong listening skills.					
I work well with other students as well as independently.					
I show persistence when attacking new concepts.					
I advocate for myself. (ex: I seek additional help, I check my grades to make sure they are accurate, etc.)					
I show a desire to excel; I will put in extra time when needed.					

What else would you like us to know that would support your application to be placed in an advanced math course?

TEACHER EVALUATION

Student name _____ Date _____

Current school _____ Teacher name _____

For highly-capable students only: Please indicate the current Big Ideas textbook and most recently completed chapter. Book (Green, Advanced 1, etc.): _____ Chapter: _____

Sixth Grade Teachers,

This document will serve as one of the criteria used for possible placement into an advanced math course. Please complete the following **confidential form** including comments (the more detailed the comments, the more helpful.) Your professional feedback is appreciated. Please complete this form no later than your school's math placement test date (**the week of April 22 to 26**). This evaluation, along with the student's completed application will be collected at the placement test.

	Most of the Time	Some of the time	Rarely	Comments
Has balance of conceptual and procedural mathematical understanding.				
Is adept at generating numerous ideas and/or solutions to problems or questions				
Clearly explains and justifies solutions.				
Completes quality work on time				
Shows persistence in attacking new concepts				
Advocates for self (ex: asks questions, checks grades for accuracy)				
Works well with other students as well as independently.				
Is organized.				
Attends school regularly				

My recommendation for this student's placement: (CIRCLE ONE)

7th grade Math

7th grade Accelerated Math

Algebra 1

Comments: _____

Teacher's signature: _____ Date: _____