

Traditional vs. Accelerated Math Pathway

2023-2024 2/9/24

What will math look like at the middle school level and how do I appropriately place my students/child in the correct math class?

- 6th and 7th grade math is the foundation of secondary math.
- There is no rush, it is better to take the traditional math courses and learn the math well than to struggle because the pacing is too fast in the accelerated path.

| Traditional Math Course Sequence | Accelerated Math Course Sequence |
|--|--|
| <p>*This is the typical path that most students take.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6th Grade – Middle School Math 6• 7th Grade – Middle School Math 7• 8th Grade – Middle School Math 8• 9th Grade – Algebra 1• 10th Grade – Honors Geometry or Geometry• 11th Grade – Honors Algebra 2 or Algebra 2• 12th Grade – Honors Pre-Calculus or Math 107 (College in the High School), AP Stats, AP Computer Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6th Grade – 6th Accelerated (6th and ½ of 7th)• 7th Grade – 7th Accelerated (½ of 7th and 8th)• 8th Grade – Algebra 1• 9th Grade – Honors Geometry• 10th Grade – Honors Algebra 2• 11th Grade – Honors Pre-Calculus and/or AP Stats• 12th Grade – AP Calculus and/or AP Stats, and/or AP Computer Science |

Below are indicators for students who have been successful in accelerated math in the past. If there is any doubt, always place students in the traditional math course path instead of the accelerated path. It is easier to call a parent to move a student up to an accelerated class within the first month of school then to call a parent and have the conversation that a student cannot handle the pace of accelerated and needs to be moved down to the traditional math course path.

6th grade and 7th grade Accelerated Indicators:

- All 5th grade and 6th grade units have been covered
- Level 4's on the elementary report card (Math and Language Arts)
- 4th Grade **Math SBA – high level 4 (2570+)** and ELA SBA – Level 4
- 5th Grade **Math SBA – high level 4 (2600+)** and 5th Grade ELA SBA – Level 4
- 6th Grade **Math SBA – high level 4 (2630+)** and 6th Grade ELA SBA – Level 4
- Absences are very limited, regular attendance is required for accelerated courses because of the pacing
- Student (not parents) wants to be in accelerated math.
- Student has grit, is comfortable with struggle, has a growth mindset and is not afraid to ask questions.
- Student can independently complete homework.
- Student is independently organized and has good time management skills
- Student can process and learn material quickly. Accelerated 6th grade math will teach 1.5 years of math in 1 year and students will have math for 52 minutes a day (Elementary spends 90 minutes per school day). Accelerated 7th grade math will teach 2 years (7th and 8th grade math) in one year with 52 minute class periods.

What happens when a student is misplaced?

- Students will be able to move paths if they are showing signs of being misplaced. Teachers will be looking for students who should be moved up or down the first month of school.
- Students can be moved to accelerated math classes at the end of the 6th grade or 7th grade year and start in the next accelerated math class the following year.
- It is hard on students to start in an accelerated math class and move out to a regular math class.
- When in doubt, start students on the traditional track and allow teachers to evaluate and move students to accelerated.