



Sixth Grade Mathematics Placement Frequently Asked Questions

Are there “levels” in Math in middle school?

One thing student and families will find different in middle school compared to elementary school is that Sixth Grade students are placed in different levels of mathematics classes: College Preparatory, Honors, or Accelerated Mathematics. Students continue to be placed in heterogeneous groups for English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.

What criteria are used to determine placement for 6th Grade?

Students are assessed in Fifth Grade to determine the mathematics level placement most appropriate as they enter Sixth Grade. Placement is determined by each student’s performance on a combination of factors:

- Fifth Grade Common Assessments (CA-5) given over the course of the fifth grade year;
- Sixth Grade Placement Test (PT-6) given to all students in March, composed of mathematical concepts taught in grades 5 and 6; and
- NJASK Grade 4 mathematics score.

Criteria are specified in Board of Education [policy and regulations](#).

How do families find out students’ math placement?

Letters are sent to all 5th Grade families in the Spring advising them of their child’s recommended math placement, and advising them of opportunities to for summer step up programs.

What is the sequence of math courses?

LEVEL	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2				Algebra	Geometry	Algebra 2	Algebra 2 / Trigonometry
College Prep	6 th Grade Mathematics	Pre-Algebra	Intro to Algebra	Algebra	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus
Honors	6 th Grade Math Honors	Pre-Algebra	Discovering Algebra/Algebra Honors	Algebra Honors	Geometry Honors	Algebra 2 Honors	Pre-Calculus Honors
Advanced Honors			Algebra Adv. Honors	Geometry Adv. Honors	Algebra 2 Adv. Honors	Pre-Calculus Adv. Honors	Calculus AB, BC, Calculus Honors or Intro to Calculus
Accelerated	Pre-Algebra	Algebra Adv. Honors	Geometry Adv. Honors	Algebra 2 Adv. Honors	Pre-Calculus Adv. Honors	Calculus AB or BC	Electives: Advanced Topics, Advanced Calculus, Linear Algebra

Will my child be locked into the level which they are placed in for 6th Grade for the rest of their time in SOMSD?

Students who do not initially meet the criteria for Honors or Accelerated Math have a number of opportunities to qualify for a more challenging math class during their time in middle school, including:

- Summer step up program to help incoming 6th graders master requisite skills and knowledge
- Mid-year level changes during 6th grade based on class performance
- End-of-year level placement recommendation based on 6th grade performance
- Summer step up program to help incoming 7th graders master requisite skills and knowledge
- Mid-year level changes during 7th grade based on class performance
- End-of-year level placement recommendation based on 7th grade performance

Note: Parents of students who meet summer program criteria will be contacted by May.