

Advanced Math Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

1. What is offered to middle school students who qualify for advanced math?

The curriculum includes the State of Michigan's Grade Level Math Content Expectations (GLECs) for the grade the student is currently enrolled in as well as some curricula from the next grade level. For a detailed description of the advanced math 6th through 8th grade courses, refer to the *Characteristics of an Advanced Math Class* document. Advanced Math students can also elect to test out of the next level math course.

2. How is the advanced math program organized?

The advanced math classes meet for one class period everyday. The lessons are designed to speed up learning, so it takes these students two years in advanced math to cover middle school curricula as defined by the state of Michigan. In their 8th grade year, students enroll in Honors Algebra I, which meets the high school Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for Algebra I, and students receive high school credit for Honors Algebra I and can choose to take the academic grade.

3. How do students qualify for advanced math classes?

- **5th grade** student scores from the NWEA and MEAP math tests are reviewed along with classroom performance (e.g. math report card grades). Since all students are tested, no referral form is necessary. Only parents whose students qualify will be notified by letter.
- **6th grade** regular math students take the NWEA math test and a host of others. Those scores are reviewed as is classroom performance (math report card grades). Parents may request to have their student reconsidered for advanced math for two reasons:
 - Their knowledge of the student's strengths in middle school math. This helps them learn first hand the differences between regular and advanced math.
 - The fact that students entering in seventh grade have one full year to get acclimated to the level of rigor required of advanced math students before enrolling Honors Algebra I.
- **7th grade** regular math students are considered for advanced math based upon qualifying scores on tests administered through the school system and classroom performance (e.g. math report card math grades). There is no parent referral form for this grade level. The qualifying scores and classroom performance are very important since the student has missed two years of advanced math programming.

4. Does it make a big difference if students are admitted into advanced math after their sixth grade year?

Students who qualify for advanced math learn new concepts quickly and seem to do well when presented with new challenges and are willing to accept the rigor. Teachers, parents and students continue to monitor student success and develop plans if students need additional practice.

5. What does a student need to do to remain in the advanced math program?

Students who maintain at least the minimum B- report card math grade can continue in the program.

6. What if a student does not maintain at least the minimum score to remain in the advanced math program in grades 6 & 7?

Those students who struggle in advanced math and do not maintain at least the minimum B- grade are placed on probation. Teachers, parents, and students dialog together and determine a plan to increase the possibilities for success. If a student does not achieve at least the minimum grade for two report card quarters within the same school year, the student is placed in regular math usually at the end of the semester. (Note: the quarters do not have to be consecutive.)

7. Can a student who exits the program re-qualify for advanced math?

Note: (This question only applies to 6th grade students.)

A 6th grade student who does not meet at least the minimum expectations is exited from advanced math usually at the end of the first or second semester, depending upon scheduling considerations. That student is then placed in regular math for at least one year. The seventh grade student has the same opportunity as any other student to qualify for advanced eighth grade math.

8. What if a student does not maintain at least the minimum score to remain in the advanced math program in grade 8?

Those students who struggle in Honors Algebra I right from the beginning and do not maintain the minimum B- grade are exited from the program after first quarter. If their performance drops and they struggle in another quarter, they will most likely continue in Honors Algebra I, but be recommended for regular math in high school. Teachers and parents will be in communication to determine what is best for the student.

9. Does a student enrolled in Honors Algebra I receive high school credit and grades which would count toward the student's GPA?

Those students who successfully complete Honors Algebra I get high school math credit. Parents can elect to have their child's grade count toward the GPA or may have the grade indicated "G" as passing the course. This grade option will be available in spring. Parents will return their response to the high school.