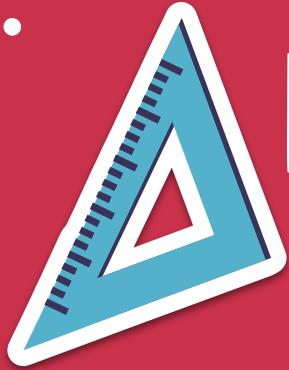
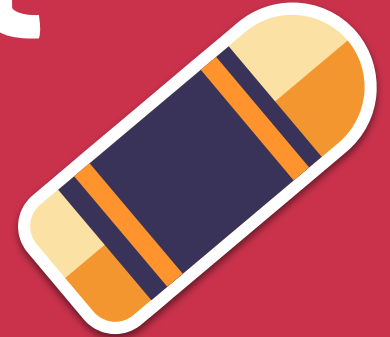


2023-2024

Middle School Math Placement



Branchburg School District



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The Placement Process

The process of placing students into an appropriate math course in each of their middle school years is reviewed each year to ensure that students find success and build confidence in mathematics. The placement process was adjusted during the 2019-20 school year due to the close of schools and the resulting pandemic.

The adjustments built off of a foundation of scores historically used including:

- an average of the unit assessments (including the mid-year assessment)
- an end of year math assessment score
- a standardized assessment score

Each year, team members work together to review student performance and supporting data (both past and current) in each of the grade level courses. Last year's data review uncovered the need for adjustments to the advancement assessment criteria in order to best support students. Criteria changes were initiated for 2022-2023 placements and this year's student performance has proven to be more consistent. No additional adjustments will be made to the 2023-2024 placement process.





Goal for Math Placement



The district's goal for for math placement in the middle school continues to be ensuring that Branchburg students:

- Are on track for successful achievement of secondary mathematics.
- Are college & career ready by achieving the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) in Mathematics for Grades K-8.
- Achieve at the highest level of performance with **success** and **confidence**.

Overview of Math Placement Components



Initial placement components are listed below:



6th Grade

Initial student placement will be based on:

- an average of unit assessments (Units 1-6), including the midyear assessment

and

- NWEA MAP score

7th Grade

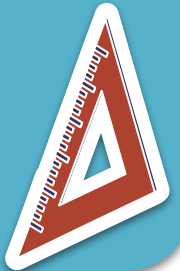
Initial student placement will be based on:

- continuing onto the next course in the placement progression

8th Grade

Initial student placement will be based on:

- continuing onto the next course in the placement progression





6th Grade Courses



Math 6:

Math 6 is the on-target, grade level math course where the majority of 6th grade students begin. Math 6 meets the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for grade 6 while providing students opportunities for activities and experiences where they can explore real world applications at a concrete level with greater teacher support.

Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6:

Foundations of Pre Algebra 6 meets the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for grade 6 at an elevated level, providing students challenging activities and experiences where they can explore in greater depth real world applications of mathematical skills. The concepts presented follow the sequence of learning for the 6th grade curriculum but require students to apply them in a more independent, inquiry based model.

Pre-Algebra 6:

Pre-Algebra 6 is a fast-paced, rigorous course that emphasizes problem-solving and critical thinking while developing necessary concepts for the further study of Algebra I (a high school level course they will meet in their 7th grade year). Pre-Algebra 6 meets the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for grade 6 and some of the grade 7 and grade 8 standards.





6th Grade Placement



To determine initial placement into one of the three courses in 6th grade, the following data collected during the 5th grade school year will be used:

- **Unit Assessments scores (Units 1-6), including the Mid Year Assessment score, will be averaged together**
- **The highest MAP score during the 2022-2023 school year will be used**

Criteria for each of the courses is outlined on the following slide.

In addition, eligible students initially placed in Math 6 and Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6, will have an opportunity to advance a level by participating in an Algebra Prognosis assessment. More details about the eligibility criteria and process for advancing a level will be shared on a later slide.



6th Grade Placement Criteria



Math 6:

All students will initially be placed into this grade-level course unless they meet the criteria for either the Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6 or Pre-Algebra 6 course outlined to the right.

Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6:

In order to initially be placed into the accelerated Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6 course, a student must have **both**:

- an Assessment Average of 85% or higher
- any 5th grade math MAP score of 234 or higher

If a parent feels that this placement is not appropriate for their child, they may request placement into Math 6.

Pre-Algebra 6:

In order to initially be placed into the most accelerated Pre-Algebra 6 course, a student must have **both**:

- an Assessment Average of 95% or higher
- any 5th grade math MAP score of 242 or higher

If a parent feels that this placement is not appropriate for their child, they may request placement into Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6.



In order to be eligible to participate in the assessment to advance, initially placed Math 6 and Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6 students **must have a unit assessment average of 85% or greater or an EOY Cumulative Assessment score of an 80% or greater.

7th Grade Placement



To determine initial placement into one of the three courses in 7th grade, all students will advance into the next course on the mathematics progression:

- All Math 6 students will be placed into Math 7
- All Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6 students will be placed into Pre-Algebra 7
- All Pre-Algebra 6 students will be placed into Algebra 7

In addition, eligible students initially placed into Math 7 and Pre-Algebra 7 will have an opportunity to advance a level by participating in an Algebra Prognosis assessment. More details about the eligibility criteria and process for advancing a level will be shared on a later slide.

Please note that historically:

- - Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6 students with unit assessment averages of at least a 90% have met success in advancing to Algebra 7
- - Math 6 students with unit assessment averages of at least an 85% have met success in advancing to Pre-Algebra 7



7th Grade Placement Criteria



Math 7:

All students enrolled in Math 6 during their 6th grade year will automatically be enrolled in Math 7 for their 7th grade year.**

Pre-Algebra 7:

All students enrolled in Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6 during their 6th grade year will automatically be enrolled in Pre-Algebra 7 for their 7th grade year.**

If a parent feels this placement is not appropriate for their child, they may request placement into Math 7.

Algebra 7:

All students enrolled in Pre-Algebra 6 during their 6th grade year will automatically be enrolled in Algebra 7 for their 7th grade year.

If a parent feels this placement is not appropriate for their child, they may request placement into Pre-Algebra 7.

In order to be eligible to participate in the assessment to advance, initially placed Math 7 and Pre-Algebra 7 students **must have a unit assessment average of 85% or greater or an EOY Cumulative Assessment score of an 80% or greater.



8th Grade Placement



To determine initial placement into one of the three courses in 8th grade, all students will advance into the next course on the mathematics progression:

- All Math 7 students will be placed into Algebra Connections
- All Pre-Algebra 7 students will be placed into Algebra 8
- All Algebra 7 students will be placed into Geometry

Additionally, eligible students initially placed into Algebra Connections will have an opportunity to advance a level by participating in an Algebra Aptitude assessment.

Students placed in Algebra 8 cannot advance to Geometry, as completing an Algebra course remains a graduation requirement by the NJ Department of Education. More details about the process and criteria for advancing a level will be shared on a later slide.

Please note that historically:

- Math 7 students with unit assessment averages of at least a 90% have met success in advancing to Algebra 8



8th Grade Placement Criteria



Algebra Connections:

All students enrolled in Math 7 during their 7th grade year will automatically be enrolled in Algebra Connections for their 8th grade year.**

Algebra 8:

All students enrolled in Pre-Algebra 7 during their 7th grade year will automatically be enrolled in Algebra 8 for their 8th grade year.

If a parent feels this placement is not appropriate for their child, they may request placement into Algebra Connections.

Geometry:

All students enrolled in Algebra 7 during their 7th grade year will automatically be enrolled in Geometry for their 8th grade year.

If a parent feels this placement is not appropriate for their child, they may request placement into Algebra 8.

In order to be eligible to participate in the assessment to advance advance, initially placed Algebra Connections students **must have a unit assessment average of an 85% or greater, or an EOY Cumulative Assessment score of an 80% or greater.



Opportunity for Advancement



Standardized assessment scores from either the Algebra Prognosis or the Algebra Aptitude will be utilized to determine whether a student can advance to the next course.

Successful performance in higher levels of mathematics at the middle school level require students to apply quantitative and abstract reasoning rather than just learned mathematics skills.

The process during which individuals grow from concrete thinkers to abstract “reasoners” occurs over time. As a result, student aptitude is a critical component when making decisions for appropriate placement of students in mathematics programs and courses.

- Scores from these assessments are valid, reliable, and norm-referenced.





Opportunity for Advancement



For students initially placed into any of the classes below, an opportunity to advance a level is available. Advancement will be based on whether a student's score meets the corresponding criteria for the standardized assessment as outlined below.

Grade 6:

- For students initially placed in Math 6 and who would like the opportunity to advance into Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6, a score of **75 or higher** on the Algebra Prognosis is required.
- For students initially placed in Foundations of Pre-Algebra 6 and who would like the opportunity to advance into Pre-Algebra 6, a score of **85 or higher** on the Algebra Prognosis is required.

Grade 8:

- For students initially placed in Algebra Connections and would like the opportunity to advance into Algebra 8, a score of **90 or higher** on the Algebra Aptitude is required.

Grade 7:

- For students initially placed in Math 7 and who would like the opportunity to advance into Pre-Algebra 7, a score of **80 or higher** on the Algebra Prognosis is required.
- For students initially placed in Pre-Algebra 7 and who would like the opportunity to advance into Algebra 7, a score of **90 or higher** on the Algebra Prognosis is required.



Selecting the Opportunity for Advancement

Should a student be eligible and interested in level advancement, they will need to complete the survey that will be included in their placement notification to help schedule sitting for the assessment. Testing will take place during the school day on **June 8th** at SBS and **June 12th** at BCMS. To maintain the integrity and security of the assessment, it will be administered in person only.

A confirmation email, with the date, time and location of the assessment will be sent to the email address included in the survey. Any additional pertinent information will be shared at that time.

Once assessments have been scored, the student/parent will be notified if their score met the criteria for advancement. If it did, this information will be passed along to BCMS administration, who will update the student's schedule for September. If the student did not meet the criteria, they will remain in the course indicated in their initial placement notification.



Placement Notification



- Students/parents will be notified of initial placements via email communication in the beginning of June.
- As part of that notification, a survey will be included for those students that are eligible for advancement.
- Please be sure to review the information below when determining whether or not an accelerated level may be appropriate for a student:

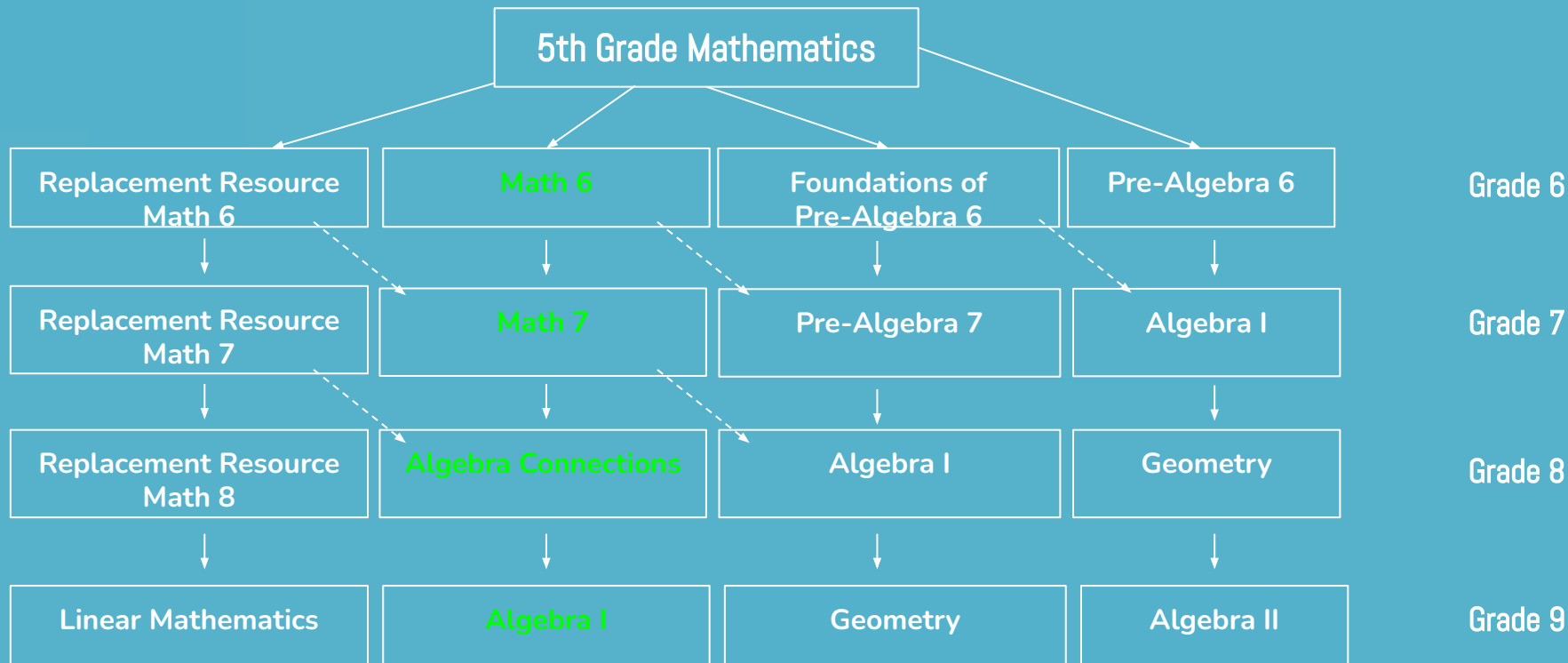
Grade Level Courses: are more teacher-led, real life application based courses. They provide more concrete instruction with more opportunity for practice and review.

Accelerated Courses: are more student-driven, inquiry based courses that apply new learning at higher levels using more complex mathematical numbers and operations.

Most Accelerated Courses: are fast-paced and rigorous. They prepare students to take high school level courses while still in middle school.

- Should an eligible student choose to sit for the assessment, they will need to complete the survey to register.
- If the student/parent feel the initial placement is appropriate, no further communication is necessary.
- If the student/parent feels the initial placement is too advanced, they may contact Mrs. Anderson & Mrs. Landesberg to request a change of level.

Math Course Sequences at BCMS



*ALL BCMS math sequences enable students to meet HS graduation requirements

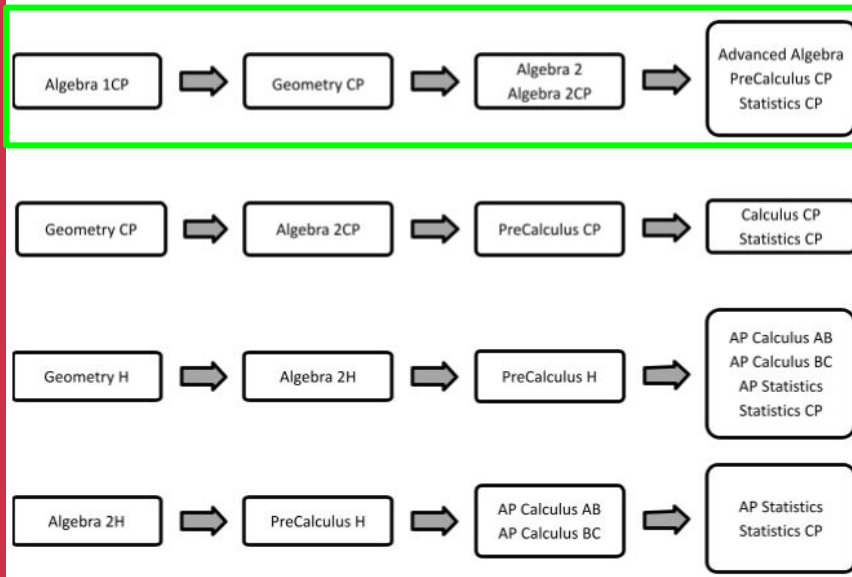
Math Course Sequences at Somerville High School

Mathematics

Somerville High School requires three years of mathematics for graduation. Elective courses are also available. The mathematics course sequence is aligned with the *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*, district curricula and the statewide assessment system.

Mathematics Sequences

Students may change levels at year's end based on performance



[link to SHS
Program
of Studies page](#)



Thank You!

This presentation will be available on the
Stony Brook, BCMS and District websites.

Should you have additional questions, please
don't hesitate to reach out:

janderson@branchburg.k12.nj.us

elandesberg@branchburg.k12.nj.us