

# MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS PROGRESSION

Parent Information and FAQs

## What's the right pathway for my child's mathematics success?

There are three main pathways students can take in mathematics in the middle grades (6-8). In two of the three pathways, students will learn content at an accelerated pace that includes the completion of one or more high school mathematics courses by the end of 8th grade. Final grades in high school courses taken in middle school will be credited to students' high school GPA.

When determining which pathway is right for your child, consider the following:

- prior success with mathematics
- interest in mathematics
- time commitments outside of school (acceleration can mean students are spending additional time outside of school building math skills)
- future academic goals in both high school and beyond
- school recommendations from teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

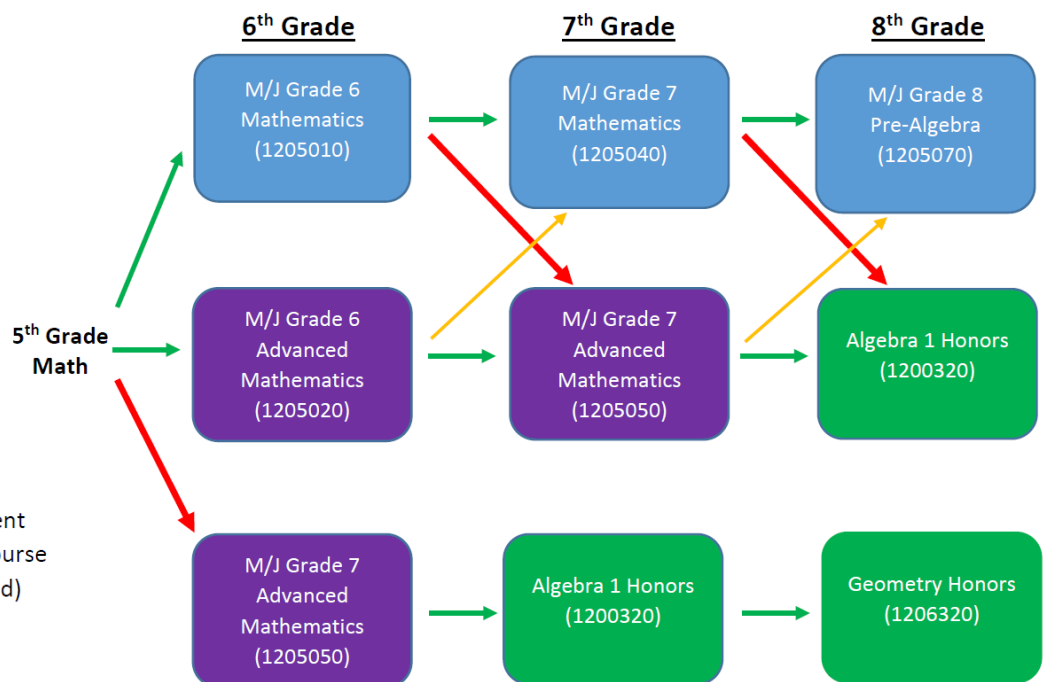
- Overview of Courses
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Looking Ahead to High School
- Enrolling in Orange County Virtual School (OCVS)

The course options and pathways are shown in the graphic below.

Courses in blue are grade level middle school courses. Students will learn one year of content and begin high school courses in 9th grade.

Courses in purple are advanced middle school courses. Students will learn about 1.5 years of content and begin high school courses in 7th or 8th grade.

Courses in green are high school courses. Students begin high school courses in 7th or 8th grade, which means they may need to take courses through OCVS to avoid content gaps.



### What do the colored arrows mean?

- indicates there are no content gaps when taking this course after the prior course
- indicates there is foundational math content students will not learn when taking this course after the prior course (OCVS recommended)
- indicates options for students if the initial pathway is accelerating too quickly



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What are the risks and benefits of taking high school courses in middle school?

The main benefit of taking HS math courses in MS is to ensure AP math courses are an option by 11th or 12th grade. Students who do not take HS courses in MS, however, can still have these options if they take an additional course in 9th or 10th grade or in the summer. There are a few risks to taking HS math courses in MS as well. Students move through foundational MS content very quickly to get to HS courses earlier. This can create content gaps or weaker foundations that can impact their success in higher level HS and AP math courses if they accelerate too quickly. Students also may not realize that their grade in the HS courses will be included in their HS GPA. This could impact their eligibility for extracurricular activities and academic scholarships.

### Should my child be working toward AP Calculus or AP Statistics?

This depends on your child's post-secondary interests. The good news is, in middle school, they have some time before they need to figure that out! More often, it's recommended that students work toward Calculus based on college requirements, but Statistics has been increasingly recognized as a great option for students entering a variety of fields or majors of study.

## What does this mean for high school?

### For students who take Pre-Algebra in 8th grade:

- **9th Grade** - Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors
- **10th Grade** - Geometry or Geometry Honors
- **11th Grade** - Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 Honors
- **12th Grade** - Multiple options, including Pre-Calculus Honors or Probability and Statistics
- *Students can take **Advanced Placement (AP)** math courses by 12th grade if they take an additional course during one of their high school years or during summer.*

### For students who take Algebra 1 Honors in 8th grade:

- **9th Grade** - Geometry or Geometry Honors
- **10th Grade** - Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 Honors
- **11th Grade** - Multiple options, including Pre-Calculus Honors or Probability and Statistics Honors
- **12th Grade** - Multiple options, including AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, or Dual Enrollment

### For students who take Geometry Honors in 8th grade:

- **9th Grade** - Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 Honors
- **10th Grade** - Multiple options, including Pre-Calculus Honors or Probability and Statistics Honors
- **11th Grade** - Multiple options, including AP Calculus AB or Dual Enrollment
- **12th Grade** - Multiple options, including AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, or Dual Enrollment



## How do I enroll my child in a math course through OCVS?

How to Register Information Flyer - <https://tinyurl.com/OCVSregistration>

How to Register Step-by-Step Video - <https://tinyurl.com/OCVSstepbystep>

## In what case(s) is it recommended I do this?

This is recommended for any progression indicated with a red arrow on the previous page. In some instances, it's a requirement because of content gaps between courses.

Course Coming From	Course Going To	OCVS Plan
5th Grade Math	7th Advanced Math	<b>Summer*</b> : 6th Grade Advanced Math - Segment 1 <b>Fall Semester</b> : 6th Grade Advanced Math - Segment 2
6th Grade Math	7th Advanced Math	<b>Summer*</b> : 7th Grade Math - Segment 2
7th Grade Math	Algebra 1 Honors	<b>Summer*</b> : Pre-Algebra - Segment 2** <b>Fall Semester</b> : Pre-Algebra - Segment 1

*\*Summer segments should be completed at an accelerated pace by August 2, 2019.*