

Middle School Mathematics Courses of Study

The middle school mathematics program offers two honors-level programs of study (Sequence 1 and Sequence 2 below). One honors program (Sequence 1) begins with Prealgebra 6 and ends with Honors Geometry. The other honors-level program of study (Sequence 2) culminates with students taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade and requires students to successfully complete Prealgebra in 7th grade with an A or B. Students enrolled in the standard curriculum will complete the Sequence 3 which is in place to prepare students for Algebra 1 in high school.

Sequence 1:
(Advanced)
6th Grade

Honors Prealgebra 6

Prerequisites: As defined by the 6th Grade Placement Guide

7th Grade

Honors Algebra 1

Prerequisite: Honors Prealgebra 6 with a grade of "A" or "B"

8th Grade

Honors Geometry

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 1 with a grade of "A" or "B"

Sequence 2:
(Above Grade Level)
6th Grade

6th Grade Mathematics

Prerequisites: As defined by the 6th Grade Placement Guide

7th Grade

Honors Prealgebra 7

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Mathematics with a grade of "A," or a grade of "B" and 6th grade mathematics teacher recommendation

8th Grade

Honors Algebra 1

Prerequisite: Prealgebra 7 with a grade of "A" or "B"

Sequence 3:
(On-Grade Level)
6th Grade

6th Grade Mathematics

Prerequisites: As defined by the 6th Grade Placement Guide

7th Grade

7th Grade Mathematics

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Mathematics

8th Grade

Prealgebra 8

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Mathematics

Placement guidelines are used to place students in the appropriate course as they move into middle school and again when they move into high school. All students in Grade 5 Mathematics are eligible for Honors Prealgebra 6 the following school year. Their 6th grade placement is determined by criteria outlined in the 6th Grade Placement Guide. Mathematics teacher evaluation, 5th grade benchmark test averages, and standardized test scores are all factors that determine placement.

Students receiving a "C" or "D" as a final grade on their report card may follow a course of study which is different from those above. If your child has received a grade below "B," your child's mathematics teacher will be able to advise you about the best course of study. The goal of the middle school mathematics program is to provide each child with a strong foundation in mathematics before moving into high school.

Additional Information

How can my middle school child earn high school credit for mathematics courses taken in middle school?

Students who complete Honors Algebra 1 and/or Honors Geometry while in a St. Mary's County middle school and earn a grade of "C" or higher are eligible to earn one high school mathematics credit for each course.

Which Maryland State tests will my child have to take in middle school?

Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades must take the mathematics section of the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) for their grade level. In addition, students in Algebra 1, regardless of their grade level, must take the Maryland High School Assessment (HSA) near the end of the school year. Passing the Algebra 1/Data Analysis HSA is a high school graduation requirement.

If my child takes the Algebra 1/Data Analysis HSA in middle school, will it fulfill the graduation requirement?

Yes. If your child passes the Algebra 1/Data Analysis HSA in middle school, he/she will not need to take the assessment again in high school.

Board of Education of St. Mary's County

Mr. William M. Mattingly, Chairman
Mrs. Cathy Allen, Vice Chairman
Mr. Gary K. Kessler, Member
Dr. Salvatore L. Raspa, Member
Mrs. Mary M. Washington, Member
Ms. Kate Rocheteau, Student Member
Dr. Michael J. Martirano, Secretary-Treasurer

Superintendent's School Support Team

Dr. Michael J. Martirano, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. J. Bradley Clements, Chief Operating Officer
Mrs. Linda J. Dudderar, Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Daniel L. Carney, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Kathleen M. Lyon, Executive Director of Student Services
Mr. Jeffrey A. Maher, Director of Professional and Organizational Development
Dr. Edward T. Weiland, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Theo L. Cramer, Director of Academic Support
Dr. Charles E. Ridgell, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs. Kelly M. Hall, Director of Elementary Instruction, Administration, and School Improvement
Mr. J. Scott Smith, Director of Secondary Instruction, Administration, and School Improvement
Mrs. Melissa Charbonnet, Director of Special Education
Mr. William C. Caplins, Director of Technology
Mrs. Zina McGowan-Thomas, Public Information Officer



The St. Mary's County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, marital status or sexual orientation, national origin, religion or disability in matters affecting employment, or in providing access to programs. Inquiries related to this policy may be addressed to the Director of Human Resources, St. Mary's County Public Schools, P.O. Box 641, Leonardtown, MD 20650, 301-475-5511, Extension 169.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Middle School Mathematics Courses of Study

Please direct all inquiries
about this document to:
Alexander C. Jaffurs
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
St. Mary's County Public Schools
23160 Moakley Street, Suite 101
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650
301- 475-5511, Extension 124
www.smcps.org