



# MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS PROGRESSION

Parent Information and FAQs

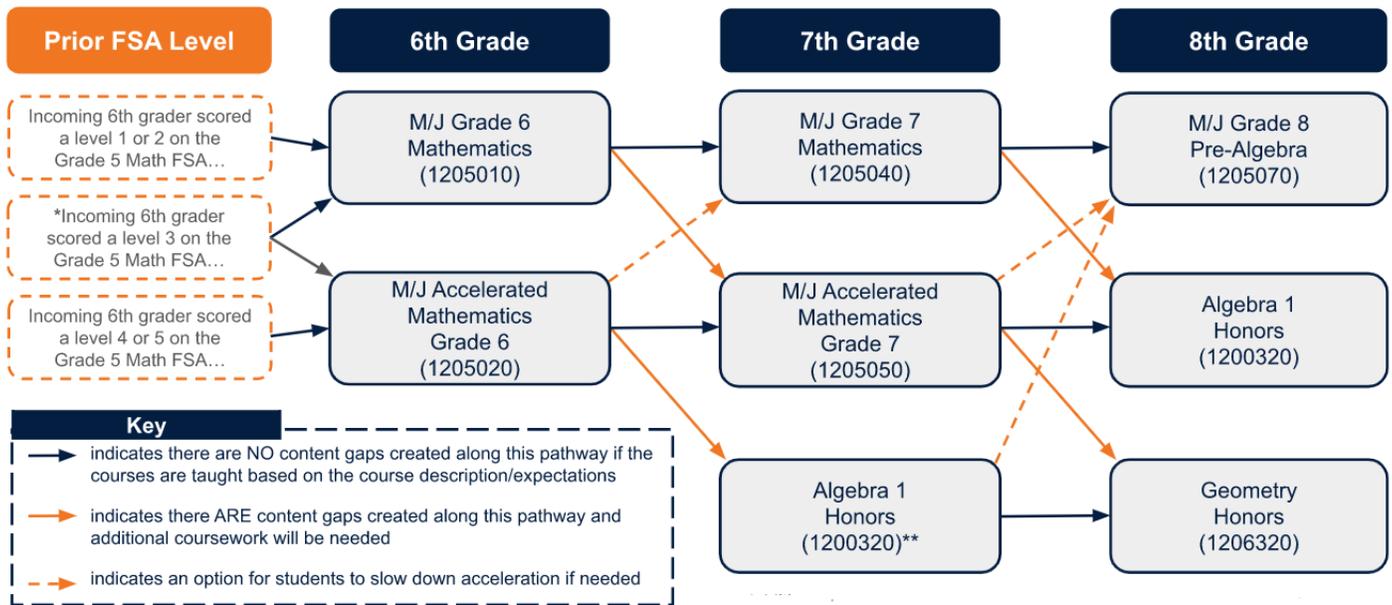
## What's the right pathway for my student's mathematics success?

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.

The course options and recommended pathways are shown in the graphic below. Students may be advised to move from one pathway to another based on academic performance.

**WHAT'S INCLUDED?**

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



When determining if an accelerated pathway is right for your student, consider the following:

- Has your student had prior success with mathematics?
- Does your student show an interest in mathematics, including in a real-world setting?
- Is your student willing to commit time outside of school to studying for the course? (Accelerated pathways can mean students are spending additional time outside of school building math skills.)
- Has your student set future academic goals in both high school and beyond?
- Do school based personnel such as teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators recommend this accelerated pathway for your student?

**Additional Considerations:** If your student is transitioning to the accelerated pathway, it is recommended to complete the additional OCVS coursework shown below to support potential content gaps.

Course Coming From	Course Going to	OCVS Plan
6th Grade Math	Accelerated 7th	M/J Mathematics - Grade 7 → Segment 2 (Summer)
Accelerated Math Grade 6	Algebra 1 Honors	Accelerated 7th (Summer)
7th Grade Math	Algebra 1 Honors	Pre-Algebra (Summer)

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

**Information Flyer** - <https://tinyurl.com/OCVSregistration>

**Step-by-Step Video** - <https://tinyurl.com/OCVSstepbystep>

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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

The main benefit of taking high school math courses in middle school is to ensure Advanced Placement (AP) math courses are an option by 11th or 12th grade. Students who do not take high school courses in middle school, 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 high school math courses in middle school to be cautious of. Students on an accelerated pathway move through foundational middle school content very quickly to get to high school courses earlier. This can create content gaps or weaker foundations that can impact their success in higher level high school courses including AP math courses if they accelerate too quickly. Students also may not realize that their grade in the high school courses will be included in their high school 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 student'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 major 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