

Math Program Frequently Asked Questions

Why is RTMSD changing the math program?

Click [here](#) to access the Math Presentation that was shared with the School Board in the spring of 2022. This presentation also has clips of the actual meeting, so you can hear the conversations that happened around each slide.

Elementary School:

Will my child still be in accelerated Math?

Students who have participated in the AMP program, will continue with the same cohort of classmates as rising 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students.

2022-2023 School Year:

- 8th grade: Does not apply. Students are continuing with Math sequence as previously determined
- 7th grade: Remain with cohort
- 6th grade: Remain with cohort
- 5th grade: Remain with cohort

2023-2024 School Year:

- 8th grade: Does not apply. Placement will be based on Algebra readiness screening at the end of 7th grade
- 7th grade: Remain with cohort
- 6th grade: Remain with cohort
- 5th grade: Does not apply

2024-2025 School Year:

- 8th grade: Does not apply. Placement will be based on Algebra readiness screening at the end of 7th grade
- 7th grade: Remain with cohort
- 6th grade: Does not apply
- 5th grade: Does not apply

Our new programming, Eureka Math Squared, is aligned to State Standards and is much more rigorous than the current Math activities. The program is built with different levels of challenge within one topic. This differentiation will enable all students to be appropriately challenged within the same Math classroom.

My child was in accelerated Math last year, so what happens now?

Math instruction and math activities will look much different than they have in the past; so while there may be some coverage of the same academic standard, it will look and feel much different. This will provide your child with an opportunity to master and apply

math concepts. Further, it is evident and undeniable that we are still in the aftermath of Covid, and our students need more consistent opportunities to master foundational grade-level skills.

My child has a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP). How will you meet the requirements of the GIEP?

The GIEP outlines how students receive their individualized services which includes enrichment, acceleration or a combination of both. Those students who require acceleration per their GIEP will receive additional math practice during Core Enrichment (CE) time. This is not in place of classroom instruction.

What if my child is bored in Math? Who do I call? What should I say?

It is always essential for parents to communicate with the school about their child's experience. Although teachers see your child every day, children do not always express themselves fully in the classroom. Please let your teacher know if your child does not feel appropriately challenged. The school district has the materials and instructional skills to adapt accordingly.

Middle School:

So what will be the Math sequence at the middle school?

Students will be learning 6th grade standards in 6th grade, and learning 7th grade standards in 7th grade.

Prior to 8th grade, students will be screened for Algebra readiness. We will use a standardized, researched-based, screening assessment - a protocol that we currently have in place - to determine Algebra readiness. We predict that we will have more students ready for Algebra I, and that those students will have a stronger foundation for success as they advance through Algebra I and beyond. For students that do not demonstrate Algebra I readiness in 8th grade, they will receive instruction in 8th grade standards and take Algebra I in 9th grade.

My child was accelerated in 6th grade (learning 7th grade standards). So if Algebra I is not being offered in 7th grade, what is next?

Students who were placed in 6th grade accelerated Math last year (2021-2022) will be given instruction on 8th grade standards in 7th grade for the (2022-2023) school year.

My child was accelerated and took Algebra in 7th grade. So what is next?

If your child took Algebra I in 7th grade, then they will take Geometry in 8th grade.

How will this impact my child's opportunities in high school?

Your child will follow the Math scope and sequence, which will still allow them to reach the highest level of math courses offered. Some students who have an aptitude and interest may choose to take two math courses in one year of high school.

High School:

What if my child wants to take the highest math offered in high school? How will they get there if there is no acceleration?

Approximately half of all students will still begin their high school career in Geometry after completing Algebra 1 in eighth grade. This will allow students to take AP Calculus or AP Statistics without having to take more than one math course per year. Students who are focused on mathematics could take a course over the summer or choose to take two math courses in one year. That will allow them to take both Statistics and Calculus, or to take Linear Algebra alongside Calculus.

For students who start their high school career in Algebra 1, they can finish in Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics without taking more than one math course in a year. Students can take a course over the summer or choose to take two math courses in one year if they wish to reach Calculus. In addition, the College Board is currently piloting AP Pre-Calculus and we will look to see if this is something we should offer students in the future.

Will this negatively impact my child's ability to get into a top university?

While there is much discussion about moving away from Calculus as a requirement for selective and highly-selective schools, our data shows that for most highly-selective schools, taking AP Calculus has been a common characteristic for admission. However, we have seen many students admitted to these schools after taking Calculus their Senior year, despite some having been able to take the course in their Junior year. Colleges look for students to earn the highest grades in the most rigorous courses available to them. Colleges will know that Calculus was not available to Penncrest students as Sophomores or Juniors, and therefore we do not expect a negative impact on college admissions.

How will this impact my child's SAT scores?

Currently, our accelerated students are beyond the level of mathematics that the SAT assesses when they sit for the test. Our teachers in Pre-calculus, Calculus, and Statistics work to review the Algebra II material for the SAT, but we feel confident that students who take Algebra II closer to the time they take the SAT will have a positive impact on SAT scores. In addition, students having a stronger foundation should result in positive results for students of all ability levels.

High School Math Sequence

Grade Course	
8 8th Grade Math	
9 Algebra I	
10 Geometry	
11 Algebra II	
12 AP Statistics, Pre Calculus / Trigonometry	

*Taking two Math courses, or “Doubling Up,” in grades 9, 10, or 11 would allow a pathway to Calculus or AP Calculus in Senior year.

Grade Course

8 Algebra I	
9 Geometry	
10 Algebra II	
11 AP Statistics, Pre Calculus / Trigonometry	
12 AP Statistics, Pre Calculus / Trigonometry, AP Calculus BC, Linear Algebra	