

Bernards Township Public Schools
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Kristen Wolff
District Supervisor of Mathematics

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please see the information that follows concerning courses in the mathematics department.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and PARCC Information:

Over the last several years, the district has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and begun to prepare for the new PARCC assessments. As a result, the mathematics department has updated and modified course offerings and expectations. Throughout this process, we have been focused on providing our students with a rigorous, yet, supportive curriculum in mathematics. One of our district goals is to meet the needs of all of our learners. While we continue to provide support to our students to meet grade level expectations, we also recognize that some of our students may need to be challenged beyond grade level.

In the CCSS, Algebra I is a ninth grade course. Therefore, all of our students who take Algebra I as freshmen meet grade level expectations. These students will have the opportunity to take four years of rigorous high school mathematics. Students who do this take Math 8 as their culminating course in middle school, and will take the PARCC assessment that is designed for Grade 8.

Algebra I in Eighth Grade

However, we recognize that many of our students are prepared to take Algebra I in eighth grade; therefore, we provide that as a possible option. This path is considered to be “accelerated” and students who succeed on this path will have the opportunity to take one year of Calculus in high school. There are some students who excel on this path and take honors level courses that may culminate in AP Calculus I as seniors. Both college prep level courses and honors/AP courses on this path are considered to be above grade level.

Also, please note that students who take Algebra I in eighth grade will take the PARCC assessment that is designed for Algebra I. The PARCC assessments are course specific in mathematics rather than grade specific.

Algebra I in Seventh Grade

For a small cohort of students, an even greater acceleration is possible. There are some students that may qualify to take Algebra I in seventh grade. This is an extremely rigorous, demanding path that is designed for those students who are both gifted in mathematics and truly interested in pursuing higher level mathematics. The goal for this pathway is to provide these students with the ability to take two years of Calculus in high school, culminating in AP Calculus II. It is important to ensure that students are both interested in pursuing this path, as well as prepared for the path. Students who take Algebra I in seventh grade “skip” the Math 7 course at WAMS, and must ensure that they have the proper knowledge and foundation to do so.

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As a result, while we have been adapting our curriculum, we have also focused on adapting our criteria. We have utilized the MAP assessment for several years as one of the indicators for allowing students to take Algebra I in seventh grade, and we have had great success with this. Many of our students who score 255 or above on their sixth grade mathematics MAP assessment, in addition to having outstanding grades in sixth grade mathematics, perform well in Algebra I in seventh grade. Therefore, the desired benchmark score on the sixth grade MAP assessment to qualify for Algebra I in seventh grade is 255. We have also seen that students' performance on their sixth grade mathematics assessments (ie: typical tests and quizzes in class) is an important indicator for success.

Keeping all of this in mind, we have developed a rubric that outlines the requirements for a student to qualify for Algebra I in seventh grade. Please see the attached document for this rubric. It is important to understand that this is designed to take into account multiple pieces of relevant data to provide a clear picture of predicting success on an extremely rigorous track in mathematics. Students must earn 15 points or more on this rubric to qualify for Algebra I. The desired benchmark scores include scoring a 255 or above on MAP (earning three points on the rubric), and then earning an A average for assessments in each marking period (earning an additional twelve points on the rubric), for a total of fifteen points. However, if a student scores below any of these desired benchmarks for a particular category, he or she can compensate by scoring higher in an additional category. This allows us to maintain rigorous criteria while still providing flexibility to ensure that we give students multiple opportunities for success.

As always, students who qualify for Algebra I in seventh grade may elect to take Math 7 instead. This choice will still be available to parents and students. Since selecting Algebra I has potential future implications on a child's mathematics course sequence through the end of his or her high school career, we encourage parents and students to think this decision over carefully. There will be more information provided to parents and students in the spring once the identification process is underway.

For any additional questions regarding the mathematics course sequence in grades 6 – 12, see the following guide: <https://www.ontourcesystems.com/documents/BA2hfPG2efYGG5dbRA/7185809-13465/downloadFile.aspx>

We continue to celebrate the overwhelming success of our students in the field of mathematics. It is our hope that this process resolves any questions or confusion surrounding the most accelerated path in mathematics.

Sincerely,



Kristen Wolff
Supervisor of Mathematics

Seventh Grade Algebra I Entrance Criteria

	5	4	3	2	1	0
6th Grade MAP	263 or above	259– 262	255 – 258	251 – 254	247 – 250	246 or below (Students with a MAP score in this range must enroll in Math 7)
6th grade MP 1 Assessment Average	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B- or below
6th grade MP 2 Assessment Average	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B- or below
6th grade MP 3 Assessment Average	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B- or below

In order to qualify for Seventh Grade Algebra I, students must earn **15 or more** points on the rubric above. This rubric assesses performance on both the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment, as well as the class assessments. “MP” stands for marking period. The “assessment” averages include all assessments (tests and quizzes) given in the marking period.

MAP Score Clarification: If a student earns a 246 or below, he or she **must** enroll in Math 7. Based on past performance, it is likely that students who score below a 255 on MAP may experience increased difficulty with Algebra I.

Please be advised that students who take Algebra I in seventh grade are beginning an extremely rigorous track in mathematics. A mathematics course sequence chart is available on Mrs. Wolff’s website to understand the differences in the paths for mathematics.