

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Buffalo Seminary is a school that prides itself on its academic excellence and rigor provided to all students. Our mission is to prepare our students to be engaged scholars and our vision is to design personal and challenging educational experiences. We view our students as scholars and constantly try to cultivate their intellect.

In that vein, our math department spent the better part of the 2023-2024 school year analyzing the curricular pathway. We analyzed multiple years worth of SAT, PSAT, and placement exam scores and correlated that information with our math courses.

After compiling and analyzing the data, we found that most students who began their ninth-grade year in Geometry performed better on standardized tests, had the opportunity to take Calculus during their senior year, and were better prepared for foundational college math courses.

Based on this data, we made the decision to change the math pathway at Buffalo Seminary. We are excited to announce that beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, SEM will begin its math pathway with Geometry as the first course in the sequence. All ninth-grade students will be placed in either Geometry or Honors Geometry depending on their placement scores.

For further information about the three-year pathway, please refer to the [Mathematics Curriculum](#) page of the website.

We understand that the new pathway may seem daunting to students for whom math is not a strength. Our priority is to facilitate the success of all students. To do so, we will provide support to students who struggle with math once per rotation. During this time, the assigned math teacher will review algebra and geometry concepts and reinforce foundational skills needed for success in geometry and beyond.

We believe that this change will provide our students with the best possible opportunity to master math curriculum, gain a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and increase their college competitiveness and, more importantly, their college readiness.

We look forward to welcoming our incoming class of 2028!

Kind regards,

Eva Cunningham, Dean of Students
Courtney Heaps, Math Department Chair
Amanda Melsby, Dean of Teaching and Learning