Del Mar Middle School
Math Placement

The purpose of Del Mar Middle School's Math Placement Protocol is to provide a **fair, objective, and transparent process** for placing students in the mathematics course that best supports their continued growth and success. Del Mar is committed to ensuring that each student experiences an appropriate balance of **challenge, rigor, and support**, while also providing opportunities for movement between pathways when demonstrated readiness indicates that a different placement would be appropriate.

Through the use of multiple measures, clearly defined pathways, and established opportunities to review placement, taking into account Habits of Learning, Del Mar Middle School is committed to maintaining a mathematics program that is **rigorous, equitable, transparent, and responsive to individual student needs**. This approach reflects the central goal: appropriate math placement should provide students with a balance of support and challenge that allows for independent success and continued growth.

Math Pathway

The **main pathway** is designed as an **accelerated pathway beginning in Grade 6**. Rather than completing one year of grade-level standards each year, students in Grades 6 and 7 complete the Grade 6–8 standards over two years. This structure provides all students with rigor and challenge as well as the opportunity to be prepared for Algebra in Grade 8 when their demonstrated readiness supports that placement.

Accelerated Math 6

All Del Mar 6th-grade students participate in an accelerated mathematics course that covers the **Grade 6 standards and approximately half of the Grade 7 standards**. The course emphasizes conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, problem solving, and mathematical reasoning while preparing students for the continued accelerated sequence in Grade 7.

Accelerated Math 7

Students continue the accelerated sequence in Grade 7, completing the **remaining Grade 7 standards as well as the Grade 8 standards**. This course provides the mathematical foundation students need for either Pre-Algebra or Algebra in Grade 8.

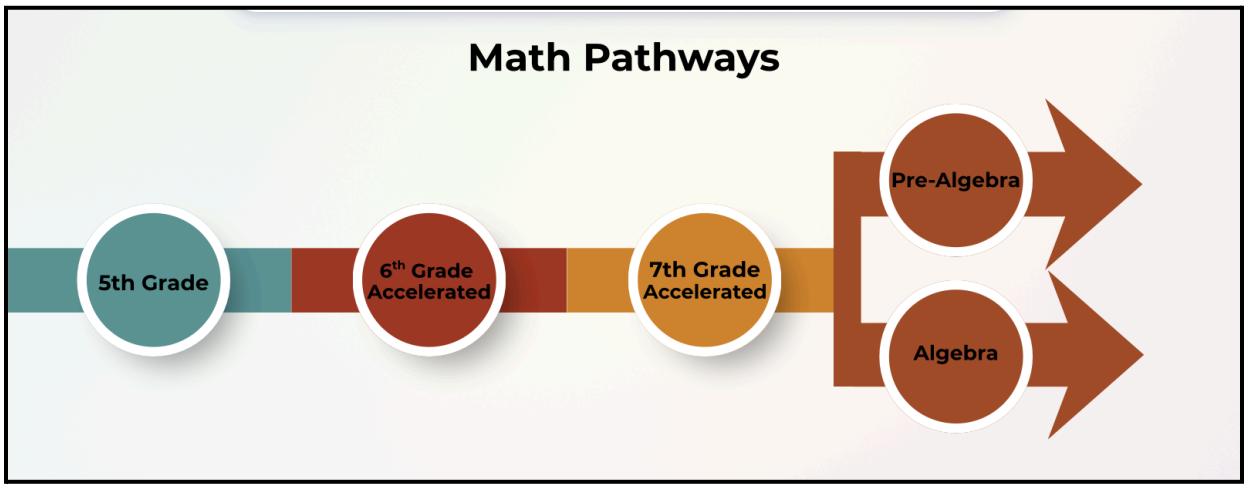
Pre-Algebra

Following Accelerated Math 7, some students are placed into **Pre-Algebra** for Grade 8. This course provides students with additional time to strengthen and deepen the mathematical

foundations necessary for success in Algebra. Students who successfully complete Pre-Algebra in Grade 8 are prepared to take Algebra in Grade 9.

Algebra

Students who demonstrate readiness following Accelerated Math 7 may be placed into **Algebra** in Grade 8 based upon multiple measures results. Algebra is a high-school-level mathematics course. Successful completion of Algebra in Grade 8 prepares students for **Geometry in Grade 9. *Final placement into Geometry is dependent on the high school entrance exam.**



Math Placement

1. **Pre-Algebra/Algebra Placement**

Del Mar uses **multiple measures of student performance** when making math placement decisions. No single assessment or data point determines a student's placement. Instead, we consider a combination of student achievement data, course performance, habits of learning, demonstrated mastery of mathematical concepts, and placement assessment results to develop a comprehensive picture of each student's mathematical readiness:

- Conceptual understanding
- Procedural fluency
- Mathematical reasoning and problem solving
- Mastery of current course content
- Readiness for accelerated coursework
- Ability to independently manage the pace and rigor of the next course

MDTP
This grade level readiness assessment, developed by CSU/UC Mathematics Diagnostic Testing Project (MDTP), is a comprehensive math test of foundational skills.

MAP Growth Mathematics
MAP Growth provides additional information about student achievement and growth over time. MAP results are considered alongside other measures to help identify students' strengths, areas for continued development, and overall mathematical readiness.

Course Performance
Performance in a student's current mathematics course provides important evidence of readiness. Teachers consider students' demonstrated mastery of course content, performance on assessments, mathematical reasoning, habits of learning and ability to independently apply their learning.

2. New Students to the District

When appropriate, Del Mar uses a placement assessment to gather information about a student's mathematical readiness. The assessment is designed to measure both mathematical knowledge and a student's ability to apply that knowledge to unfamiliar problems.

3. Alternate Pathway Process

There are a ***VERY*** small number of students every year who fully test out of all 6th and some 7th grade standards at the end of Grade 5. There may also be a small group of students ready for this pathway at the end of Grade 6. Students in this group will take 7th Accelerated math as 6th graders then Algebra as 7th graders. Students who successfully complete Algebra at Del Mar in 7th grade will move into Geometry as 8th graders. This is ***NOT*** a typical pathway, and we generally have fewer than five students each year who take this route. These students will be placed in a study hall class during their regularly scheduled math period and will have the option to enroll in an approved online Geometry course to work independently during that time.

Del Mar uses **multiple measures of student performance** when making math placement decisions for our incoming 6th graders. Students who meet **ALL** of the following criteria are invited to take a placement assessment at the end of their 5th-grade year:

- Score within the **top 5% on the Spring MAP Math assessment**
- Demonstrate **Advanced performance on grade-level assessments**
- Receive a **strong teacher recommendation**

The placement assessment covers **all 6th-grade math standards and select 7th-grade standards**. To advance directly into **7th Grade Accelerated Math as a 6th grader**, students must score **90% or higher** on the placement assessment. This benchmark helps ensure that students have demonstrated the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to be successful

on this advanced pathway. Students who may be ready for this pathway at the end of Grade 6, will take similar assessments at the end of 6th grade and have similar placement requirements.

The placement assessment is administered **one time only**.