



# Hamden Middle School Math Course and Placement Overview



Dear Hamden Families,

The purpose of this document is to provide our Grade 5 and 6 families with information regarding Hamden Middle School's math course offerings and placement process. Our math department values the partnership with our community and is increasing efforts to communicate all aspects of our math program to our Hamden families.

## Multiple Pathways in Math

### 7th Grade

#### Math-7

- General Grade 7 Math (offered at Level 3 and 4)
- Curriculum follows Grade 7 CT Common Core State Standards for Mathematics
- This course is designed for students who need to improve their proficiency with mathematical concepts studied in elementary school and need to reinforce their problem solving and critical thinking skills.

#### Accelerated 7<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>

- Students will complete Math-7 and Math-8 during the course of one school year in preparation to take Algebra I in 8th grade.
- Units of study covering priority CT Common Core State Standards for Mathematics are implemented.

#### Algebra I

- This course investigates the fundamental ideas of algebra upon which all future study of mathematics depends.
- This course is designed for highly motivated students who have excelled in previous mathematics courses and who have demonstrated an ability to meet the demands of a faster paced and more in-depth study of algebraic topics.

### 8th Grade

#### Math-8

- General Grade 8 Math (offered at Level 3 and 4)
- Curriculum follows Grade 8 CT Common Core State Standards for Mathematics
- This course is designed for students who need to improve their proficiency with mathematical concepts studied in elementary school and need to reinforce their problem solving and critical thinking skills.

#### Algebra I

- Please see description to the left.

#### Geometry

- This course unifies the concepts of geometry, algebra, and arithmetic to investigate the spatial relationships of polygons and solids within a framework of points, lines, and planes.
- This course is designed for highly motivated students who have excelled in previous mathematics courses and who have demonstrated an ability to meet the demands of a faster paced and more in-depth study of geometric topics.
- Must have successfully completed Algebra 1.



# Hamden Math Placement Process

**Question:** What performance criteria are used to determine math placements?

Our math department uses several different criteria to determine math placements - Grade 6 District End-of-Unit Assessments, District NWEA Math Scores, and Smarter Balanced Scores from Grade 5.

**Question:** Who determines the math placement for students?

The Director of Mathematics, Elementary Math Specialists, Grade 6 math teachers, and staff from our support team collaborate to review performance criteria to make final placements.

**Question:** When will I find out final placement recommendations for my child?

Our Hamden families will be informed of final math placement recommendations for Grade 7 by the close of the school year. Our Grade 6 teachers may inform parents at Elementary conferences. Additionally, letters will be sent to home to inform our families of placements as well.

Please contact Linda Morbidelli, the Director of Mathematics, at [lmorbidelli@hamden.org](mailto:lmorbidelli@hamden.org) or (203) 407-2210 with any questions regarding the placement process.

Thank you for your continued support of our Hamden Math Department as we strengthen our math program to help our students reach our Board of Education math goals.

## **Board of Education Goal**

All students will demonstrate accelerated growth toward Algebra I readiness by the end of grade eight.