

Mathematics

Requirements:

One of the following Geometry courses:

- Geometry and Problem Solving (MATH 210)
- Geometry (MATH 211)
- Geometry Honors (MATH 212H)

One of the following Algebra II & Trigonometry courses:

- Algebra II & Trigonometry (MATH 221)
- Algebra II & Trigonometry Honors (MATH 222H)

Elective Courses Offered in 2020-21

300-level

- Precalculus (MATH 310)
- Precalculus A (MATH 311)
- Precalculus Honors (MATH 312H)
- Contemporary Calculus (MATH 320)
- Senior Math Electives (MATH 331)
- Discrete Math (MATH 332)
- Introduction to Statistics and Probability (MATH 333)

400-level

- AP Calculus AB (MATH 401)
- AP Calculus BC Honors (MATH 402H)
- AP Statistics (MATH 403)
- Statistics and Probability (MATH 430)
- Math Seminar (MATH 440S)

Mathematics

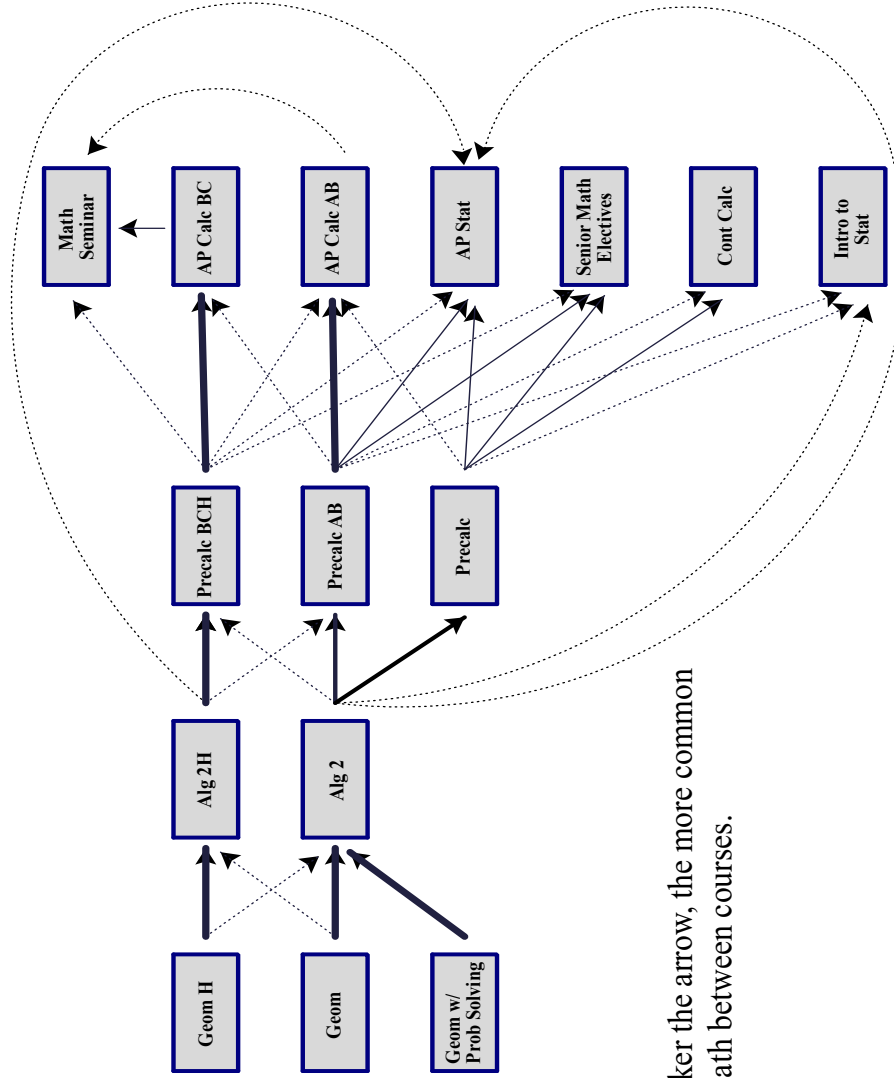
In every course we offer, the Mathematics Department strives to convey math as intrinsically interesting, interconnected, and deep. Our hope is that the curriculum will stimulate curiosity in students, and inspire creativity in problem-solving. Each course is designed to develop students' confidence in their ability to solve problems, and, ultimately, a love of learning. We see learning as collaborative, and we hope to cultivate compassionate communicators and listeners. We hope the students see the utility of math beyond just the classroom, and that the habits of mind we pass on will serve them throughout their lives.

Requirements:

Geometry

Algebra II and Trigonometry

Many of the elective courses and honors courses have special prerequisites. For specific details, please refer to the information that follows each course description under "approval requirements."



Key: the darker the arrow, the more common the student path between courses.

REQUIRED COURSES (Grades 9 and 10)

MATH 210 - Geometry and Problem Solving

Full credit, meets 5 days/week

Prerequisites: Algebra I

This geometry course is designed to serve students who have completed an Algebra I course, often the Algebra IB course in our Middle Division, and who need more work with algebra skills and more attention to individual learning needs. Like Geometry, this course conveys an appreciation of geometry as a deductive system and covers the traditional relationships between points, lines, triangles, polygons and circles in the plane. There is an emphasis on problem-solving techniques common to all studies of mathematics. Successful completion of this course leads to enrollment in Algebra II & Trigonometry in the following year.

MATH 211 - Geometry

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Algebra I

The course is designed to convey an appreciation of geometry as a deductive system. Starting with undefined terms, postulates, and definitions, the students follow the progressive development of theorems and their proofs to create a mathematical structure with rich aesthetic and practical value. In building this axiomatic structure, they improve their ability to recognize and organize the various relationships among points, lines, triangles, polygons, and circles in the plane. Throughout the year, students will engage in a series of guided explorations using the dynamic software program, *Geometer's Sketchpad*.

MATH 212H - Geometry Honors

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Honors Algebra I or Algebra I, departmental approval (see below).

In addition to the major topics of Geometry, the Honors sections study the advanced geometry of the triangle. After using the dynamic geometry software *Geometer's Sketchpad* to conjecture relationships in triangles, students prove theorems associated with the orthocenter, incenter, circumcenter and centroid. Throughout the course great emphasis is placed on proof and the skills associated with effective communication of complex ideas. The year culminates in a final project in which pairs of students present the proof of a "great" theorem during a full class period.

Approval requirements: Algebra I students interested in Geometry Honors will be considered based on a combination of factors including: teacher recommendation, grades, and performance on a placement test.

MATH 221 - Algebra II & Trigonometry

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Geometry or Geometry and Problem Solving

The thematic thread that ties this course together is the mathematical concept of a function. Students learn to interpret functions algebraically and graphically, as well as how to connect the two. Functions of particular interest are the sine, cosine, exponential, logarithmic, linear, quadratic, and absolute value. There is a substantial treatment of trigonometry and complex numbers. The course is driven by student-lead investigations, facilitated by a graphing calculator and other tools. Skill-building is emphasized as students develop a toolbox of techniques for solving problems. Of equal importance, students encounter open-ended problem-solving in which they learn how to devise their own strategies for tackling non-routine problems.

MATH 222H - Algebra II & Trigonometry Honors

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Geometry Honors or Geometry, Departmental approval (see below).

This Honors course covers the topics in Algebra II & Trigonometry in greater depth and serves as a rigorous introduction to higher mathematics. The course begins with abstract set theory and branches off to cover areas of mathematical modeling with functions, geometric and analytic trigonometry, and advanced analytic geometry. This is a demanding course, requiring a high level of abstraction and mathematical maturity. Students will be expected to stretch themselves intellectually and to grapple with exciting, difficult material throughout the year. Time permitting, we may also cover abstract topics such as cardinality, group and field theory, basic number theory, and non-Euclidean metrics.

Approval requirements: A successful year in Honors Geometry, which for most students is indicated by a year-end grade of a B or higher. Students earning a year-end grade lower than a B in Honors Geometry must have departmental approval. In addition, in the spring, very high performing students in Geometry (211) who have been identified by their teachers as candidates for the jump to this course will be asked to sit for a non-routine problem-solving test to help gauge their readiness. In every case, departmental approval is required.

ELECTIVE COURSES (Grades 11 and 12)

Precalculus Options

The Math Department offers three levels of precalculus to those who have earned at least a C- in Algebra II & Trigonometry (221). Students who wish to continue their study of traditional mathematics should elect to take a precalculus course after Algebra II & Trigonometry (221).

MATH 310 - Precalculus

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Algebra II & Trigonometry

In this course, students will use the skills they've developed in previous math courses to explore strategies for solving challenging, exciting problems. Through real-world examples and modeling, students will learn how math appears in their everyday lives. The course includes a review of trigonometric functions along with a deeper look at their graphs, inverses, and applications. Other topics include sequences, polynomials, combinatorics, probability, exponential growth and decay, and optimization.

MATH 311 - Precalculus A

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Algebra II & Trigonometry, Departmental approval (see below).

In this course students will cover a variety of topics within mathematics. Each topic is rich with interesting problems that inspire curiosity and require creative problem-solving techniques. Specifically, students will study elementary functions, including trigonometric, rational, polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic, both theoretically and through applications. This course also covers sequences and series, combinatorics, and probability.

Approval requirements: A minimum grade of an exact B+ or higher when averaging both semester grades in Algebra II & Trigonometry (211). An exact B+ is a 7 on the 10 point scale.

MATH 312H - Precalculus Honors

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Algebra II & Trigonometry Honors or Algebra II & Trigonometry, Departmental approval (see below).

This course involves a highly theoretical and rigorous approach to precalculus. Topics include vector analysis, modeling with parametric equations, combinatorics and probability, sequences and series, recursion, polar coordinates. Graphing calculators and computer applications are used for exploration.

Approval requirements: A successful year in Algebra II & Trigonometry Honors, which for most students is indicated by a year-end grade of a B or higher. Students earning a year-end grade lower than a B in Algebra II & Trigonometry Honors must have departmental approval. In unique circumstances, students who demonstrate exceptionally high achievement in Algebra II & Trigonometry (221) may be considered for approval for this course.

MATH 320 - Contemporary Calculus

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Precalculus or Precalculus A, departmental approval (see below).

This calculus course emphasizes depth and exploration. Technology, such as a graphing calculator, is used as a tool to examine the topics included in a traditional introductory calculus course: functions and their graphs; limits; the derivative and its applications; definite and indefinite integrals; and logarithmic, exponential, and trigonometric functions. In addition, students study topics not usually accessible in traditional calculus courses. Through calculator exercises students take advantage of numerical methods to analyze problems, discover underlying concepts, and gain insight into the relationship between the geometric and algebraic representation of the central ideas.

Approval requirements: You must earn a C in Precalculus.

MATH 331 - Senior Math Electives

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Any precalculus course

Senior Math Electives is a full-year, full credit course designed to give students the opportunity to study engaging mathematical fields that are outside of the traditional high school syllabus. Project-based “learning by doing” will be an integral part of the experience. Students will be evaluated through their work on problem sets and projects. The course is divided into two distinct semesters, sometimes taught by two different teachers. Topics may change year-to-year, but past offerings are:

The Analysis of Games: In this semester course, we examine what mathematicians call *combinatorial game theory*. This field studies games like Tic-Tac-Toe, Checkers, or Dots and Boxes, in which there is no random chance and no hidden information. We play a lot of games, think about them, talk about them, and write about them, with an eye towards developing “best” and “worst” strategies from the ground up.

An Introduction to Discrete Mathematics: This semester course explores topics in discrete mathematics, computational linear algebra, and provides an introduction to approximation theory.

MATH 332 - Discrete Math

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Any precalculus or algebra II & trigonometry course, departmental approval (see below).

This course studies both the mathematics required to analyze problems of a discrete nature but does it through its applications to various disciplines outside of pure mathematics. The emphasis will be on developing and analyzing algorithms to model and implement in many areas of study. We will explore modeling problems such as election theory and determining group preferences, methods of comparing the dominance of one person over another in political situations, and fair-division methods, such as apportioning the House of Representatives; various models of population growth, such as invasive species and predator-prey systems; financial modeling of debt and investment; graph theory problems, such as map-coloring, the problem of scheduling, minimum spanning trees, Steiner trees, communication models and the effects of social networking and cliques, as well as the famous traveling salesman problem. No prior knowledge of computer science or programming is required. The emphasis will be on writing and explaining the algorithms we study using plain English. The primary technology used will be pre-existing programs and spreadsheet software. Time permitting, we will also discuss the new and quickly growing area of the geometry of Gerrymandering. Students should expect to work independently and in group settings on problem-sets, giving oral presentations of their work, and completing capstone projects each semester.

Approval requirements: For students who have completed a precalculus course: A year-end average of a B- or higher in Precalculus AB or Precalculus BC Honors. A year-end average of an A- or higher in Precalculus. For students who have successfully completed Algebra II & Trigonometry with a year-end average of an A- or higher or Algebra II & Trigonometry Honors with a year-end average of a B+ or higher are approved for this course if taken concurrently with a precalculus course.

MATH 333 - Introduction to Statistics and Probability

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Algebra II & Trigonometry (221)

This course is a statistics workshop in which students explore data, combinatorics and probability through activities, lab exercises, discussion and research. This class makes extensive use of dynamic

statistical data analysis software. Additionally, students learn to interpret the various statistical representations that we encounter in our daily lives.

MATH 401 - AP Calculus AB

Full credit, meets 5 days/week

Prerequisites: Precalculus AB or Precalculus, departmental approval (see below).

AP Calculus AB is a rigorous introduction to calculus. This course covers differentiation and integration with applications to rates of change, optimization, area, and volume. One semester of college calculus credit may be earned from this course. This course culminates in the AP Calculus AB exam in the spring.

Approval requirements: A minimum grade of an exact B+ or higher when averaging both semester grades in Precalculus AB or a minimum grade of an exact A in Precalculus. (An exact B+ is a 7 on the 10 point scale, and an exact A is a 9 on the 10 point scale.) Highly motivated students with a high B in Precalculus AB, or a high A- in Precalculus, may request to take a diagnostic test administered at the end of the school year that may result in approval for this course.

MATH 402H - AP Calculus BC Honors

Full credit, meets 5 days/week

Prerequisites: Precalculus BC Honors or Precalculus AB, departmental approval (see below).

AP Calculus BC Honors is the culmination of the honors sequence in mathematics. This course is taken in preparation for the AP Calculus BC exam in the Spring. All of the work covered in AP Calculus AB is included in this course. The following additional topics are also covered: special methods of integration, differential equations, infinite series, polar coordinates, arc lengths, and vectors and parametric equations. Two semesters of college calculus credit may be earned from this course.

Approval requirements: A successful year in Precalculus BC Honors, which for most students is indicated by a year-end grade of a B or higher. Students earning a year-end grade lower than a B in Precalculus BC Honors must have departmental approval. In unique circumstances, students who demonstrate exceptionally high achievement in Precalculus AB may be considered for this course. Departmental approval is required.

MATH 403 - AP Statistics

Full credit, meets 5 days/week

Prerequisites: Any precalculus course, departmental approval (see below).

This course is an introductory statistics course similar to those required for college majors in the social sciences, health sciences, and business. In preparation for the Advanced Placement Statistics exam in the Spring, this course introduces the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. One semester of college statistics credit may be earned from this course.

Approval requirements: Below is the minimum grade required to take AP Statistics from a Precalculus course. The grade is obtained by averaging both semester grades on the 10-point scale. This grade requirement does not include rounding; it must be exact. For instance, an exact B+ is a 7 on the 10-point scale. In Precalculus a minimum of a B+ is required. In Precalculus AB a minimum of a B is required. In Precalculus BC Honors a minimum of a B- is required.

MATH 430 - Statistics and Probability

Full credit, meets 5 days/week

Prerequisites: Any precalculus course, departmental approval (see below).

This statistics course is similar to those required for college majors in the social sciences, health sciences, and business. Major concepts such as combinatorics, probability, data collecting, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions from data will be covered. Additionally, students will learn to interpret the various statistical representations that we encounter in our daily lives. Students should expect to learn through activities, lab exercises, discussion, and projects. This class makes extensive use of dynamic statistical data analysis software, such as Fathom.

Approval requirements: Below is the minimum grade required to take Statistics and Probability from an Algebra II & Trigonometry course. The grade is obtained by averaging both semester grades on the 10-point scale. This grade requirement does not include rounding; it must be exact. For instance, an exact B+ is a 7 on the 10-point scale. In Algebra II & Trigonometry (221) a minimum of a A- is required. In Algebra II & Trigonometry Honors (222) a minimum of a B+ is required.

MATH 440S - Math Seminar

Full credit, meets 4 days/week

Prerequisites: Precalculus BC Honors or Precalculus AB, departmental approval (see below).

This is a full credit course designed for students with a serious interest in pursuing higher mathematics. The course is problem-set based to give students the experience of working through complex material in an

independent setting. The special topics offered vary from year to year and have, to date, included number theory, inversive geometry, linear algebra, multivariable calculus, finite calculus, continued fractions, game theory, and advanced problem-solving.

Approval requirements: A demonstrated passion for mathematics, a minimum grade of A- in Precalculus BC Honors and departmental approval required. In certain exceptional circumstances, a student who has completed Precalculus AB may be considered for approval for this course. Students may take Math Seminar and Advanced Placement Calculus concurrently.