Math Scheduling for Freshmen
Frequently Asked Questions*

Which math class should I take freshman year?

Table 1

Current 8th Grade Math Class	Proficiency Test (All members of the Class of 2025 are required to take a math proficiency test for placement.)
Common Core Math 8; Pre Algebra; 8th grade Mathematics	Algebra I proficiency test to place into any of the following: • Algebra I • Algebra I Daily (Meets every day, instead of every other day to cover Algebra I curriculum at a slower pace) • Qualify for summer Algebra for possible advancement to Geometry/Honors Geometry, with qualifying grade • Qualify for second semester only of summer Algebra I for possible advancement to Geometry/Honors Geometry, with qualifying grade
Yearlong Algebra I course; Integrated Math I; Common Core Math 9	Algebra I proficiency test to place into: • Geometry or Honors Geometry, with qualifying score • *(see Table 2 for qualifying score cutoffs)*
Yearlong Geometry course in 8th grade *(have previously taken a yearlong Algebra I and they both appear on your transcript from an accredited school)*; Integrated Math II	Algebra I/Geometry combined proficiency test to place into any of the following: • Honors Algebra II *(We do not recommend that freshman take regular Algebra II.)* • *(see Table 2 for qualifying score cutoffs)*
Yearlong Algebra II course from an accredited school; Integrated Math III	**First**: Algebra I/Geometry proficiency test to demonstrate eligibility for the Algebra II test **Second**: students who receive a qualifying score on the first test may take the Algebra II proficiency test to place into Precalculus or Honors Precalculus. The second test will be scheduled after the first test is scored. *(see Table 2 for qualifying score cutoffs)*
Beyond Algebra II	Please contact the Math Department Chair, Ms. Shikha Naik at

What score do I need on the math proficiency test to advance to the next math class?

Table 2

Test (see above for eligibility requirements)	Score	Placement Option(s)
Algebra I	<35%	Daily Algebra during school year; summer prep course recommended
	35-49%	Daily Algebra during school year, OR, PHS Summer Pre-Algebra course to advance to Algebra I, with qualifying score
	<50%	Algebra I during school year
	50-59%	Algebra I during school year; OR, *(for students who have an A- or higher grade in their 8th grade math class only)* <u>both</u> semesters of summer Algebra I to advance to Geometry or Honors Geometry during school year, with qualifying grade
	60-69%	Algebra I during school year; OR, <u>second</u> <u>semester</u> of summer Algebra I to advance to Geometry or Honors Geometry during the school year, with qualifying grade
	70-79%	Geometry during school year
	80+%	Honors Geometry during school year; OR summer Geometry to advance to Algebra II or Honors Algebra II during school year, with qualifying grade
Algebra I/Geometry	30-49%	Algebra I during school year; OR, <u>both</u> semesters of summer Algebra I to advance to Geometry or Honors Geometry during school year, with qualifying grade
	50-59%	Geometry; OR *(for students who received "Honors at Entrance" distinction only)* Honors Geometry during the school year or summer Geometry to advance to Algebra II or Honors Algebra II during school year, with qualifying grade

	60-69%	Honors Geometry; OR summer Geometry to advance to Algebra II or Honors Algebra II during school year, with qualifying grade
	70+%	Algebra II or Honors Algebra II (student choice)
Algebra II	80%+	Honors Precalculus

What math courses does Presentation High School offer?

You can find information about our math curriculum here.

I took Common Core math in middle school and I am not sure what math course I should take next year.

All students are required to take a math proficiency test so that we can place you at the appropriate level math course.

How does my freshman placement impact my progress through the math curriculum?

The following are typical pathways from freshman year to senior year.

Table 3

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Algebra I	Geometry/Honors Geometry	Algebra II/Honors Algebra II	Precalculus/Honors Precalculus
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Statistics I/II
Geometry/Honors Geometry	Algebra II/Honors Algebra II	Precalculus/Honors Precalculus	Calculus/AP Calculus AB or BC
Honors Algebra II	Honors Precalculus	AP Calculus BC	Honors Multivariable Calculus

If I take Algebra I during freshman year, will I be able to take advanced math classes in order to be competitive during college admissions?

- Yes. Colleges emphasize four years of math so that students have a strong foundation for college-level courses. Typically, a freshman in Algebra I will be able to advance through Precalculus by the end of the senior year.
- A student also can take advantage of moving into honors classes by performing well in a regular Algebra I class.
- Many students do not take Advanced Placement math classes in high school and are still accepted to four-year colleges or universities.
- Students who receive a B+ in each semester of Algebra I during freshman year are eligible to take summer Geometry after freshman year and advance to Algebra II/Honors Algebra II in the sophomore year, if they receive a qualifying score in Geometry. This pathway would allow the student to take a calculus class prior to graduation. No other summer advancement is permitted.

Can I take a math class over the summer to advance to a higher level math in the fall?

- We allow qualifying students to take either Algebra I or Geometry over the summer prior to freshman year. Students qualify by earning qualifying scores on our proficiency tests, as discussed in Table 2.
- Students who earn a B+ or higher in each semester of Algebra I during freshman year have the option to take Geometry over the summer between freshman and sophomore year. They must earn a grade of B or higher to qualify for Algebra II or a grade of B+ or higher, and have a 3.3 GPA in math to qualify for Honors Algebra II.
- We do not allow any other math advancement over the summer.

Table 4

Summer	Freshman	Summer	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II/Hon. Algebra II	Prec/ Hon. Prec	Calc/AP Calc AB or BC
Algebra I	Geo/ Hon. Geo	--	Algebra II/Hon. Algebra II	Prec/ Hon. Prec	Calc/AP Calc AB or BC
Geometry	Hon. Algebra II	--	Hon. Prec	AP Calc BC	Hon. Multivariable Calculus

Can I advance through Algebra II over the summer so I can start high school in Precalculus?

> No. You should be very careful regarding Algebra II. It is a course that plays a crucial role in your success in advanced math courses. We do not allow advancement in Algebra II over summer. Algebra II must be taken at Presentation as a yearlong course.

Can I self study and skip the Geometry class by taking a proficiency test?

- No. All students must take a geometry course from an accredited school. In addition to being a Presentation requirement, this is also a college entrance requirement.
- According to the UC subject requirements: "All students must complete a geometry course or integrated math with geometry content." Neither AP Calculus AB/BC nor IB HL Mathematics exam will satisfy the geometry requirement.
- Self-studying a course such as Geometry is not considered as complete. All of the math courses at Presentation are UC approved.

I have already taken Algebra II. Why do I have to take the Algebra I/Geometry Test before I can take the Algebra II Proficiency Test?

> Algebra II curriculum varies across schools and we want to ensure that students have a solid foundation in Algebra I and Geometry as well. This solid foundation is necessary for students to be successful in our Precalculus and Honors Precalculus courses.

I am currently taking Algebra II at the Russian School of Math. Do you accept credit from this course for advancement in math?

> We do not accept credit from an after school tutoring center or RSM because we want to be consistent with accepting students based on the courses taken at their middle school. Various after school centers have different accreditation that creates inconsistency in our placement policy.

I tested into Honors Algebra II but I'm thinking I'll take regular Algebra II so I can ease into freshman year. Is that a good idea? In other words, why don't you recommend taking Algebra II freshman year?

> Traditionally, freshmen enroll in Algebra, Geometry, Honors Geometry, or Honors Algebra II. Though you are advanced in your course subject, the regular Algebra II does **not** prepare you for future **honors** math classes. By taking this math course students are actually less likely to take an advanced math course, culminating in AP math courses. Taking this non-honors upper division math class as a freshman makes it hard for a

student to switch to an honors course of study. Even with an A in the Algebra II course, Honors Precalculus would seem very difficult.

If you choose to take Algebra II, your path might be: Algebra II, Precalculus, Calculus, and then AP Statistics or AP Calculus AB or BC. However, it's very rare for a student to move from Calculus to AP Calculus AB or BC.

If you pass the proficiency test to be placed in Honors Algebra II, we recommend that you take the honors class so you can stay on the honors track throughout your high school math career**.** If choosing Honors Algebra II just seems like too much then we recommend starting in Honors Geometry which allows for AP Calc senior year.

I have already taken precalculus. Can I take calculus as a freshman?

The Presentation Honors Precalculus curriculum is different from a standard precalculus curriculum in that it prepares students for AP Calculus BC; therefore, even if you have taken a precalculus course elsewhere you will have to take the precalculus proficiency test at Presentation before we place you in a calculus course. Upon receiving a qualifying score you may be placed in one of our calculus classes as a freshman.

What is Daily Algebra?

- Daily Algebra is an Algebra I class that meets everyday. Because Presentation High School has a block schedule, all other classes meet every other day. This class is scheduled as a double block, meaning that it means for one block period on the Gold Day and one block period on the Blue Day.
- The purpose of this class is to provide the same Algebra I curriculum at a decelerated pace so that students can build their math skills and confidence.

What support is available at Presentation for students who are not strong math students?

Peer tutoring is available at the study center at Presentation apart from additional support from teachers during their office hours. A strong math student signs up to be a peer tutor who is then assigned to students who need homework help on campus.

Can I switch from an honors math class to regular math if I find it too challenging?

Yes, Presentation allows students to make the switch from an honors pathway to a regular pathway if a student finds an honors course too difficult than expected. A student has a one-week deadline to change the course that is announced in the daily bulletin. A student may not change the course after the deadline for requesting the

change has passed. We do not allow making a switch for year-long classes in the middle of the semester.

Can I switch from a regular math pathway to an honors math pathway?

Yes. If a student excels in the regular math class and meets the prerequisite for the honors classes they may choose to move to the honors level the following year. We do not allow making a switch for year-long classes in the middle of the semester.

Does Presentation offer math competitions?

We offer monthly California Math League math contests during lunch and an annual AMC Math contest for students who are interested in competitive math. Participation in math contests also counts towards Mu-Alpha Theta (math honor society for juniors and seniors) membership.

If you have any additional scheduling questions please contact the Director of Instructional Operations, Dr. Andrea Duwel, aduwel@presentationhs.org. For questions about math curriculum, placement or contests please contact the math department chair, Ms. Shikha Naik, snaik@presentationhs.org.

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