



SHADY SIDE

ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL
500 Squaw Run Road East
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412-968-3100

May 1, 2021

Dear Parents of Incoming students to Shady Side Academy Middle School:

Understanding that math placement is a goal for both parents and the Middle School, I wish to take a few moments to explain both our math sequence and placement guidelines. Our goal is to provide a strong mathematical foundation for our students that matches their developmental stage.

To that end, we offer two sequences of mathematics courses. Most students will take Grade 6 Math, followed by Form I/7th Grade Pre-Algebra and Form II/8th Grade Algebra 1. For students who are ready to pursue a more advanced program, we offer Pre-Algebra (6), followed by Form I Algebra 1 and Form II Geometry. Below you will find the math placement procedure for Grade 6 through Form II mathematics courses including Pre-Algebra (6), Form I Algebra 1, and Form II Geometry. I hope that by providing you with this information, you will understand the expectations and criteria that we use for each math course at the Middle School.

Please keep in mind that the goal of the Middle School Math Department is to meet the children where they are in their development and provide them the tools, skills, and habits that they will need to be successful at the next level, taking care to prepare them for abstract mathematical concepts without over-taxing their developmental stage. If you have any questions, please email me at bjohnston@shadysideacademy.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Johnston
Assistant Head of Middle School
Middle School Director of Studies

Placement Procedure for Middle School Math

For a fifth grade student to take Pre-Algebra (6) during his or her sixth grade year, he or she must take a placement test. In order to qualify to take the placement test, the student must attain both criteria described below:

1. A cumulative grade for the year of at least 93% in fifth grade math.
2. At least a 7th stanine ranking in both the Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics Achievement portions of either the ERBs or ISEE.

The placement test is given in June at the Middle School. You will be notified of that test date if your child's cumulative grade for the year and ERB/ISEE scores meet the criteria to take the placement test. After the placement test is scored, you will be notified as to whether your child will take Grade 6 Mathematics or Pre-Algebra (6) in the fall.

Placement Criteria for Form I Algebra 1

Students who successfully complete Pre-Algebra (6) automatically qualify to take Form I Algebra 1. For a Grade 6 Math student to be recommended to take Algebra 1 during his or her Form I year, he or she must attain all three criteria described below:

For students currently attending Shady Side Academy Middle School

1. ERB CTP IV: At least a 7th stanine ranking in both Quantitative Reasoning and Math 1 & 2 according to Independent School norms.
2. A score of at least 93% on the final exam in sixth grade math.
3. A cumulative grade for the year of at least 93% in sixth grade math.

For students coming into Shady Side Academy Middle School

1. ISEE: At least a 7th stanine ranking in both Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics Achievement according to Independent School norms.
2. A qualifying score on the Algebra 1 Placement test.
3. A cumulative grade for the year of at least 93% or an 'A' in sixth grade math.

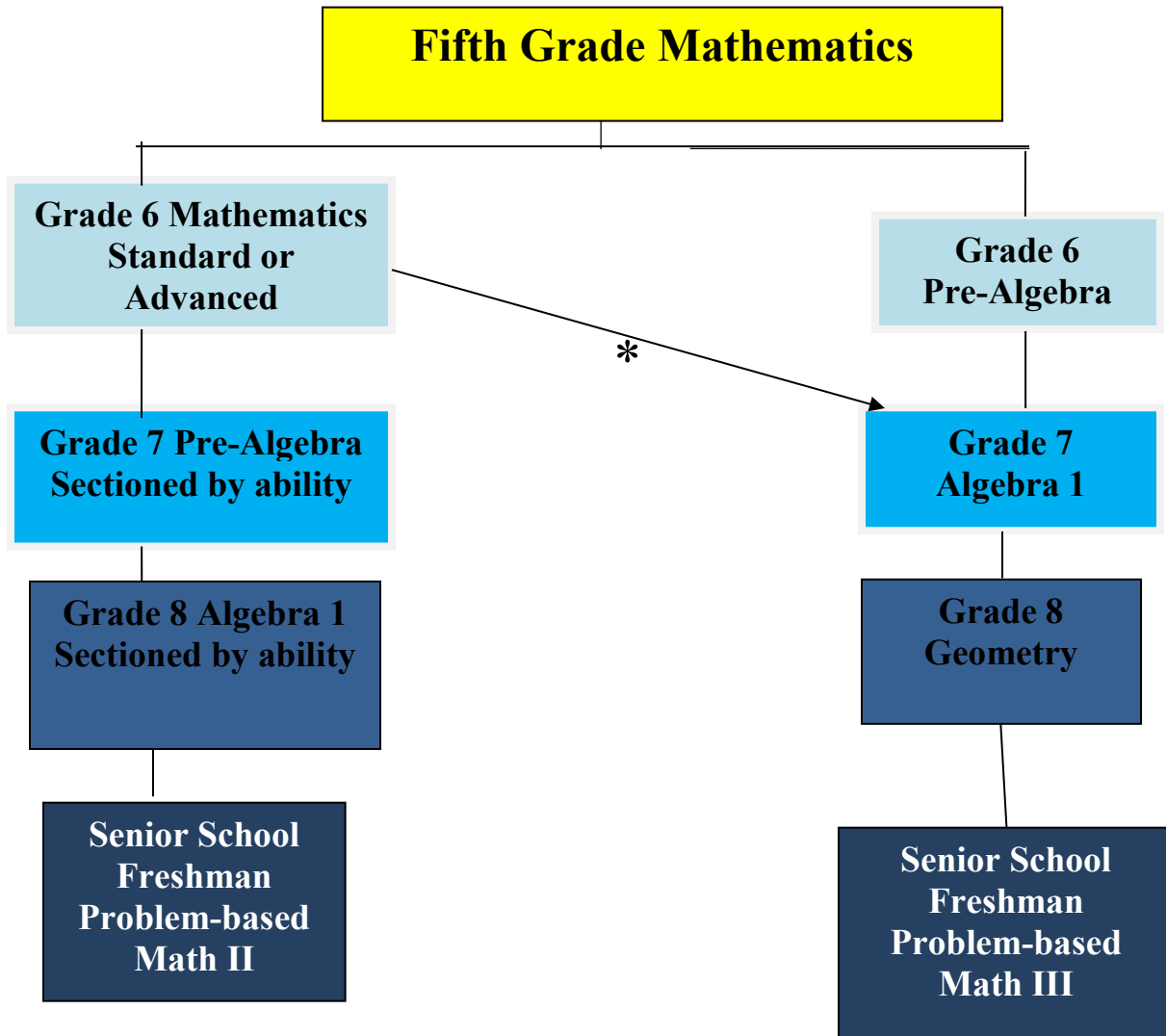
Placement into Form II Math Courses

The student who has completed Form I Algebra 1 at the Middle School will then take Form II Geometry. The student who has completed Form I Pre-Algebra at the Middle School will then take Form II Algebra 1.

Students entering the Middle School in Form II must meet the ISEE and year-end grade criteria above in order to take the placement test for Form II Geometry. A score of 85% or better on this test is needed to place into Form II Geometry.

Note: Shady Side Academy Middle School does not permit students to advance in math by taking summer courses at Shady Side Academy or at any other school.

**Shady Side Academy Middle School
Mathematics Course Options**



*ERB/CTP scores, grades and comments are reviewed at the end of the sixth grade year and if students meet the criteria listed on page 2, there will be a conversation with parents and a student may move from Grade 6 mathematics to Algebra 1 for Form I.