



# **Westport Public Schools**

## ***Placement in Middle School***

### **Mathematics**



# Approach to Mathematics and Course Placement – 6-8

## Curriculum & Instruction

The Westport Public Schools offer a rich and rigorous study of mathematics. Our curriculum emphasizes conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application and problem solving. Depth of understanding is built by presenting mathematical concepts from multiple perspectives. As with other components of the middle school experience, increasing levels of independence are expected through the years.

Our middle school curriculum builds upon the foundation of conceptual understanding and mathematical practices set in elementary. We believe mathematically proficient students:

- 1) Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them;
- 2) Reason abstractly and quantitatively;
- 3) Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others;
- 4) Model with mathematics;
- 5) Use appropriate tools strategically;
- 6) Attend to precision; and
- 7) Look for and make use of structure.

## Advanced Level Course Placement

Advanced course placement occurs when students are enrolled in “plus” classes (Math 6/7, Math 7+, Algebra 1+ in grade 8). Students placed in advanced courses experience a faster-paced and deeper study of mathematics. In some classes, content is consolidated across grade levels.

## Accelerated Course Placement

Accelerated course placement occurs when a student is enrolled in a course offered beyond their grade level (Algebra 1 in grade 7, Geometry in grade 8). Accelerated course placement results in skipped content. *Therefore, placement in accelerated mathematics courses is only considered for students who consistently demonstrate exemplary understanding of grade level standards, concepts and procedures, problem solving skills, and for whom differentiation is not adequate.*

## Criteria for Mathematics Placement

Mathematics teachers consider student performance across multiple data points when making placement decisions. Parents are welcome to discuss placement with their child’s math teacher.

Placement in mathematics will be recommended by the teacher based on the following criteria:

1. Performance on district-wide assessments;
2. Performance on NWEA MAP assessment;
3. Performance on the Smarter Balanced assessment in preceding years;
4. Demonstration of exceptional problem-solving skills across a variety of contexts; and
5. Mathematics performance within the mathematics classroom.

