



Integrated Math Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions

Oak Park and River Forest High School is proposing a transition from its current math curriculum to an integrated math curriculum, a change that would roll out over four years, beginning with some freshman courses in the 2023-2024 school year. Here are answers to some questions you may have.

How is integrated math different from the current curriculum?

Currently, our math curriculum follows the traditional U.S. approach of teaching math topics separately from one another. For instance, a student takes Algebra 1 for a full year, followed by Geometry the next year, and then Algebra 2 the third year. With a 15-month gap between the two individual years of algebra instruction, teachers typically spend several months at the beginning of Algebra 2 having to review previously taught concepts.

In an integrated math curriculum, each course incorporates many topics, including algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, etc. Integrated math includes multiple opportunities to review, reteach, and introduce new concepts earlier than in the traditional curriculum. Lessons build on one another and get more advanced year after year.

Nearly everywhere outside the United States, including Asia, Australia, Canada, and Europe, integrated math is the standard. Schools in greater Chicago that are using an integrated math curriculum include Jones College Prep and Northside College Prep.

How is this going to be rolled out?

The integrated math curriculum will be phased in over a four-year period, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year with some freshmen (that is, some current 8th graders) only. Please see next page for more details on the timeline.

Integrated Math Curriculum Phase-In

2023 - 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Add Math I Accelerate, Math 1 Extended, and Math 1.● Remove Pre-Algebra Block, Extended Algebra, and Algebra.● These changes will not remove honors options or courses currently available for current middle school students in accelerated courses.
2024 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Add Math I Honors.● Add Math II Accelerate, Math II Extended Math, Math II, and Math II Honors.● Remove Plane Geometry, Plane Geometry A, and Geometry A.
2025 - 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Add Math III and Math III Honors.● Remove Problem-Based Geometry, Algebra Two, Advanced Algebra, Intermediate Algebra A, and Advanced Algebra A.
2026 - 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Add Data Science.● Ongoing collaboration with Districts 90 and 97 will continue to ensure continuity of the mathematics curriculum for students.

Will current OPRFHS students be affected by this change?

No. All current students will follow the same pathway of math courses that were outlined when they registered as freshmen.

So which students will be taking integrated math next year?

Any freshman who would have been enrolled in any version of Algebra or Pre-Algebra.

I have an 8th grader currently taking Algebra, and her twin is taking Geometry. What courses will they get next year?

We will continue to test and recommend students for the appropriate courses.

- Current 8th graders taking Algebra will enter high school next year taking either Plane Geometry, Plane Geometry A, or Geometry A.
- Current 8th graders taking Geometry will enter high school next year taking either Intermediate Algebra A or Advanced Algebra A.

Is this a form of detracking?

No. It is a reduction of entry points into freshman math. Currently we have eight entry points, which

will be reduced to five entry points. Math 1, the course that most freshmen will take, will be offered in a range of levels, from supported to honors.

Will there still be opportunities for freshmen to enter high school taking advanced level math courses?

Yes. If they've already taken Algebra, Geometry, or additional advanced math courses, they will enter at an advanced course level.

What are the benefits to students in the most challenging levels of math?

Moving to integrated math and eliminating a 15-month interruption in the continuity of algebra instruction will help *all* students, while still allowing the most advanced students to continue accessing advanced courses. We currently offer courses through Calculus III and will continue to do so under the new math pathway.

Will integrated math change the level of rigor?

Yes—for the better. We are planning to increase the rigor by using more real world applications as a natural consequence of teaching math as a fluid discipline and by making some content adjustments that include adding data science.

What does the research say?

During the curriculum evaluation process, the team looked at several sources of research listed [here](#). Overall, research says that an integrated math pathway in high school will increase connection between math concepts and between math and the real world. Most research shows gains in standardized test scores with the integrated math curriculum.

Where can I get more information?

[Click here](#) to see the Oct. 13, 2022, Board of Education presentation, which includes more details about the proposed changes and timeline. Board meetings are viewable on [our YouTube page](#).