Redwood Middle School
Mathematics Overview for 2023-2024

February 28, 2023
We Are Recording

Recording and slides will be posted to SUSD's website at
www.saratogausd.org/mathplacement
Welcome &
Introductions
Purpose of Tonight’s Meeting

- Provide overview of Redwood's Mathematics program
- Assist parents in understanding SUSD's math pathways and placement process
- Understanding the parent/student role in math placement
- Provide information and resources for parents/students to make a thoughtful and informed decision on the best-fit math placement at this time.
Agenda

- Welcome to Redwood!
- Math Instruction & Courses
- Math Pathways
- Math Placement & Testing
- Teacher Feedback
- Summer Coursework
- Fall Checkpoint
- What does this all mean for your student? Next Steps
- Q&A
Welcome to Redwood!

- Middle school is an important time of transition -- new school, new friends, new interests, physical and emotional changes
- Many opportunities to participate in the Redwood school community
- Balance in academic, extra-curriculars, social and emotional areas is essential to student well-being.

Mathematics is only one piece of a student's education, and every student's path, focus, and interests are different ~ the name of one's math course should not define a student's value of success.
Lunchtime Activities

Garden Club

Music at Lunch

Club 47
After School Activities

Percussion

RMS Competitive Sports

PTA Sponsored School Play
RMS Math Instruction & Courses
Philosophy of Mathematics Instruction & Learning

● Student enjoyment and challenge
● Balanced approach to instruction and higher order thinking problems
● Opportunities for both explicit direct instruction and hands-on learning

● Typical lesson structure includes:
  ○ student-directed discovery learning
  ○ enhanced conceptual understanding
  ○ teacher-directed instruction
  ○ student opportunity to develop clear, precise mathematical language
  ○ independent practice with teacher feedback
Standards for Mathematical Practices

In addition to the main areas of focus in each math course, there are eight (8) Mathematical Practice Standards used to build on the student’s ability to make sense of a variety of real-world problems:

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
7. Look for and make use of structure
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning
## Math Courses at Redwood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAI Math</td>
<td>RSP (Resource Specialist Program) Math Class 6, 7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 6</td>
<td>6th grade math standards covered in one school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 7</td>
<td>7th grade math standards covered in one school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 8</td>
<td>8th grade math standards covered in one school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 6/7A</td>
<td>Compacted course covering all of Math 6 and part of Math 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 7B/8</td>
<td>Compacted course covering part of Math 7 and all of Math 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra 1</td>
<td>High school-level course taught at RMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>High school-level course taught at RMS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Math Support Courses at Redwood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math Advisory</th>
<th>Math Support for Students in Grade Level Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAI Math</td>
<td>RSP (Resource Specialist Program) Math Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Basics; Functional Math</td>
<td>SDC (Special Day Class) Math Class</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Algebra 1 ... then and now

CCSS - Common Core State Standards
SUSD began teaching CCSS Math 8 and CCSS Algebra 1 in the 2016-17 school year.
What is it like taking an advanced math course at RMS?

Compacted courses (Math 6/7A, Math 7B/8)
High school-level courses (Algebra 1, Geometry)

- Pace of course - compacted courses cover 1.5 years of content in one school year
- Less time for practice/review
- Prerequisite knowledge
- Classwork/Homework
- Social-emotional readiness
- Other expectations/considerations

Note: Grade-level courses (Math 6, Math 7, Math 8) are also rigorous with more time for practice and establishing strong foundation.
Advanced Math Course Letter Grades

● When enrolled in an advanced math course at Redwood, students who have a letter grade of D+ or lower at the first 6-weeks of the school year or the end of the first semester or the end of the second semester will be automatically moved to a less advanced math course.

● Math teachers will communicate with parents when students are struggling.

● Impacts of math course change
  ○ Student schedule - possible change in teacher(s), Core section, and/or elective options
  ○ Adjusting to new course(s)/teacher(s) mid-term
  ○ Social-emotional / enjoyment of math

● Letter grades earned in high school-level courses taken at Redwood (Algebra 1, Geometry):
  ○ May appear on student's high school transcript - yes, at Saratoga High School
  ○ Prerequisite letter grade requirements/recommendations for transition to Saratoga High School math courses (see SHS math pathways chart on later slide)
RMS Math Pathways
Redwood Math Pathways Chart

5th Grade:

- Math 6
- Math 6/7A
- Math 7B/8

6th Grade:

- Math 7B/8

7th Grade:

- Math 7
- Math 7B/8
- Algebra 1 (high school-level course)

8th Grade:

- Math 8
- Geometry (high school-level course)

= pathway to next-in-line course

= on-ramp to advanced pathway without skipping of math content

= on-ramp to advanced pathway with skipping of math content

= caution is advised with skipping of math content
Elementary to Redwood Middle School Transition

5th Grade:

Math 6/7A

6th Grade:

Math 6

Student is best prepared to succeed and will be challenged to learn grade-level content at the grade-level pace.

Math 7B/8

Student is best prepared to succeed and will be challenged to learn grade-level content and half of the next level at a faster pace.

Student has gained proficiency in Math 6/7A content outside of SUSD and is best prepared to succeed and will be challenged to learn the next levels of content at a faster pace. Skipped content (Math 6/7A) will not be reviewed in this course.
Redwood Middle to Saratoga High Transition

Grade

6th
- Math 6

7th
- Math 7

8th
- Math 8

9th
- Algebra 1

10th
- Geometry

11th
- Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 Honors

12th
- Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus Honors and/or Statistics or Statistics (AP)

- Math 6/7A

- Math 7B/8

- Math 7B/8

- Algebra 1

- Algebra 1

- Geometry

- Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 Honors

- Geometry

- Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 Honors

- Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus Honors

- Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus Honors

- Calculus or Calc AB (AP) or Calc BC (AP) and/or Statistics or Statistics (AP)

- Calculus AB (AP) or Calculus BC (AP)

- Statistics or Statistics (AP)
Saratoga High School
Math Pathways

Letter Grade Requirements/Recommendations:

- **Minimum 4-year college Entrance Requirement**
  Must earn a C- or higher in the following math courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2/2H

- **Recommended Prerequisite Grades**
  The recommended prerequisite letter grades listed in the pathways chart are based on student’s 2nd semester grades for in-seat full-year classes taken at Redwood Middle School or SHS (not summer or online).

*SHS Mathematics Department members feel strongly that students benefit most from enrolling in mathematics classes offered during the regular school year.*
RMS Math Placement & Testing
Goal of Math Placement:

"To ensure that our students are placed in the middle school course for which they are best prepared to succeed and in which they will be challenged to learn."

~ Build strong foundation in math, enjoy math, best fit, individual family decision considering many factors ~
While enrolled in advanced math courses, a grade of C- or higher is required at 6-weeks, end of 1st semester and end of 2nd semester.

** = suggested criteria is a guideline, not a recommendation nor guarantee of success in course, especially if skipping content

*** = required criteria to be eligible to enroll in course
Skipping Math Content

- ⚠️ = Caution is advised with skipping of math content.
- Skipping content should not be considered a “trial”.
- Minimum Required Criteria: End-of-Course placement tests for skipping content require a minimum score of 65% to be eligible for enrollment.
- Algebra 1 in 6th grade will be considered on a “case by case” basis for students scoring 85% or higher on the End-of-Course Math 6/7A and Math 7B/8 Tests. Parents will be notified of possible consideration after student takes the Math 6/7A test.
- High school-level courses (Algebra 1 and Geometry) may not be skipped.

_SUSD does not recommend skipping of math courses._
End-of-Course Placement Tests

- Required only for students trying to skip content
- Test covers content trying to skip
- Online test taken on computer
- Approx. 50 questions, multiple choice & fill-in-the-blank
- No calculators
- 2-hour time limit
- No sample tests available
- Testing will be held in-person at Redwood Middle School
- Bring SUSD Chromebook (fully charged), pencils, eraser, water
- Test Results: % scores in PowerSchool Parent Portal
- No retakes or post-test review
Teacher Feedback
Teacher Feedback

Upon request, teachers will provide additional feedback to students after spring assessments, if those teachers have specific input that might be helpful for parents/students to make an informed decision about their placement.
Summer Coursework
Summer Coursework

● **In-district summer coursework**
  ○ This option is not viable, because summer accelerated coursework instruction by qualified teachers is highly constrained by a lack of certificated teacher availability.
  ○ RMS student survey: Least favored option for acceleration (6% want summer accelerated coursework)

● **Other summer coursework**
  ○ In order to reduce disruption to RMS students' fall schedules, extensive flexibility is being provided to families in late spring only.
  ○ No further placement testing will occur in late summer/early fall for returning students.
Fall Checkpoint
Fall Checkpoint

The purpose of the Fall Checkpoint is to identify students who are **grossly misplaced** in the preceding spring.

For students who may be grossly misplaced, a district team, comprised of math teachers and administrators, will review the preceding spring's SBAC overall scaled scores on previous grade-level standards in mathematics and SUSD's spring placement test results, as well as classroom performance in the early weeks of the new school year, to determine if misplacements have occurred.
What does this all mean for your student?

~

Next Steps
Tentative Timeline 2023

❖ February 28
Parent Information Meeting

❖ March/early April
Email notification of PowerSchool Parent Portal to parents of current Grade 5, Math 6, Math 6/7A, Math 7 students

❖ March/early April
Parent Portal Phase 1: Enroll in course or register for testing

■ Required selection: choose math course or register for End-of-Course placement test

■ Parents of current Grade 5, Math 6, Math 6/7A, Math 7 students must make a selection

■ Even if not going to RMS next year (or uncertain), PLEASE make a selection -- your plans may change!
Tentative Timeline 2022 (continued)

❖ **Sat, April 22**  
End-of-Course Testing for current SUSD Grade 5, Math 6, Math 6/7A, and Math 7 students

❖ **late April/May**  
Email notification of End-of-Course (EOC) test results available in PowerSchool Parent Portal

❖ **late April/May**  
**Parent Portal Phase 2:** Response to EOC test results
  - **Required selection:** choose math course from eligible options based on test score.
PowerSchool Parent Portal
(for parents of current Grade 5, Math 6, Math 6/7A, Math 7 students)

Math Placement Process

IMPORTANT: Responses to this notification will only be accepted June 1st - 4th 2020.

Please select one option below by June 4, 2020:

- Enroll my student in the next in-line course: Math 6 (grade-level course)
- Enroll my student in the next advanced course that does not require skipping of content: Math 6/7A (faster-paced and compacted course)
- Sign up my student for the Math 6/7A End-of-Course Test to be eligible for enrollment in Math 7B/8 (faster-paced and compacted course; requires skipping Math 6/7A, which is 1.5 years of content)

Click on the following link for more information about SUSD’s math placement qualifying scores and course options: https://www.saratogausd.org/mathplacement.

Descriptions of math courses, content standards, and more math resources are available at http://www.saratogausd.org/math.

For questions about the math placement process, contact Educational Services (educationalservices@saratogausd.org).

* After this button is selected, the testing dates/times appear for the parent to select

Click this icon to access math placement page
New-to-District Students - Next Steps

(starting at SUSD 2023-24 school year, not current SUSD elementary or Redwood students)

● Submit Math Records
Submit your student's prior school math records to SUSD Registration at the District Office or via email to registration@saratogausd.org as soon as possible. Records may include current report card, current math course syllabus, current math textbook name/table of contents, math placement test results,...

● Math Placement Options
  ○ Students starting at beginning of school year (August 2023): Contact SUSD's Educational Services department at educationalservices@saratogausd.org.
  ○ Students starting during 2023-24 school year: Contact your student's Redwood Guidance Counselor.
Is math acceleration a good option for my student now?

A strong foundation in middle school math, along with balance in other academic, social, and emotional areas, is essential to student well-being and future math learning.

Consider factors, such as:
- Motivation
- Independence and ownership in learning
- Passion and natural affinity for mathematics
- Time-management skills
- Effective coping skills when frustrated or stressed
- Other course work and extracurricular activities
- Is now the right time? There are other opportunities!

Resources:
- Student Readiness to Accelerate Questions
- Should You Skip a Year of Math? (article)
- FAQs - will be posted at www.saratogausd.org/math placement
Looking Ahead ~ many education opportunities!

In addition to math, Saratoga High School Honors/AP course offerings:

- English Honors/AP
- Creative Writing Honors
- Japanese AP
- Chinese Honors/AP
- French Honors/AP
- Spanish Honors/AP
- European History AP
- US History AP
- US Government AP
- Biology AP
- Chemistry Honors/AP
- Environmental Science AP
- Physics AP
- Computer Science AP
- Band Honors
- Orchestra Honors
- Choir Honors
- Music Theory AP
- Jazz Band Honors
- Art Honors
- Drawing AP
- Art History AP
- Drama Honors
- Journalism Honors
- Multimedia Journalism Honors

Plus, many other electives such as Engineering, Digital Animation, Marine Biology, Sports Medicine, Leadership, Intro to Business, Psychology, Ceramics and more! *(course offerings subject to change)*

Mathematics is only one piece of a student's education, and every student's path, focus, and interests are different ~ the name of one's math course should not define a student's value of success.
Math Placement Virtual Office Hour

Tuesday Mar 7, 2023 · 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Google Meet Virtual Link:
meet.google.com/zrx-ezgp-uuq
-or-
Join by Phone:
(US) +1 971-412-2082
PIN: 728194387

SUSD Educational Services staff will be available to answer questions.
Questions?

saratogausd.org/math
saratogausd.org/mathplacement