

Math Courses, Pathways, and Placement Process

Mathematics is one of the core subject areas for all San José Unified students. We offer a variety of math courses and pathways to give students multiple options to meet mathematics requirements. Our pathways and placement processes ensure students are placed in appropriate math courses that provide sufficient challenges and supports for students.

Mathematics instruction in San José Unified is guided by the California Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for mathematics, which include a combination of content standards and standards for mathematical practices. Courses at our comprehensive middle and high schools use College Board's Springboard curriculum for Math 6 through Algebra 2.

San José Unified has adopted Board Policy 6152.1, which governs our math placement policies for students in grades 6-12. This policy also meets the requirements of California Education Code 51224.7, which is specific to math placement for students entering grade 9.

This document provides supplemental information regarding San José Unified's math pathways and the math placement process. The math placement process uses a variety of student assessment data to determine the appropriate placement and takes place during the spring and summer. Families are notified of their student's math course prior to the first day of school.

Middle School Overview

Each student's placement in middle school math courses is aligned to the student's mastery-based readiness for course material. Student performance is reviewed each year using multiple assessment data points and students are placed appropriately for the next year.

Our math placement process provides multiple opportunities for students to accelerate their math progress in middle school. Many of the math pathways, shown in the diagram at the end of this document, result in an accelerated math placement for students in middle school.

Each mathematics course requires the students to have foundational skills and content learned in previous math courses. Students cannot take concurrent math courses and they may not skip a course unless they participate in one of our summer bridge courses: Ramp Up to Algebra and Ramp up to Geometry. San José Unified does not accept courses completed at non-district programs for middle school math acceleration purposes.

High School Overview

Each student's placement in high school math courses is based on successful completion of prerequisites listed in [San José Unified's course catalog](#). Students have multiple pathways for high school math; several of the most common pathways are shown in the diagram at the end of this document. Three years of high school math are required for graduation. Four years are recommended by the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems. Students who take high school math courses in middle school must take a minimum of two mathematics courses in high school. Students may take a preapproved course outside of San José Unified starting with the summer prior to 9th grade.

6th Grade Math Placement

There are two courses offered:

- Math 6
- Accelerated Math 6

The criteria outlined below is used to determine placement into Accelerated Math 6:

- Grade 5 Spring NWEA Map RIT score from the NWEA Spring national norms*
- Math CAASP score from grade 4
- 5th Grade winter progress report
- Challenge assessment (only for students who qualify)

** If students do not have a Spring test score and want to be considered for acceleration, they must take the NWEA test during the summer between 5th and 6th grade to help determine placement.*

7th Grade Math Placement

There are three courses offered:

- Math 7
- Accelerated Math 7
- Algebra 1

The criteria outlined below will be used to determine placement into Accelerated Math 7 or Algebra:

- Grade 6 Spring NWEA Map RIT score from the NWEA Spring national norms*
- Math CAASP scores from grade 5
- Semester 1 math grade from grade 6
- Prior course completion (Math 6 or Accelerated Math 6)
- Students who earn a C or better in Accelerated Math 6 will automatically be placed in Accelerated Math 7 unless they qualify for Algebra 1
- Challenge assessment (for qualifying students only)

**If students do not have a Spring test score and want to be considered for acceleration, then students must take the NWEA test during the summer between 6th and 7th grade to help determine placement*

8th Grade Math Placement

There are three courses offered:

- Math 8
- Algebra 1
- Geometry

The criteria below will be used to determine placement into Math 8, Algebra, or Geometry:

- Math 8: completion of Math 7*
- Algebra 1:
 - o Completion of Accelerated Math 7 with a grade of C or better*
 - o Completion of Math 7 with 5 or more points based on the Math CAASP scores from grade 6, Grade 7 Spring NWEA Map RIT, and Semester 1 math grade from grade 7
 - o Successful completion of both Math 7 and Ramp Up to Algebra
- Geometry: successful completion of Algebra 1 with a C or better in both semesters

**Or the equivalent for students entering from outside San José Unified*

Ramp Up Summer Acceleration Bridge Program

The Ramp Up to Algebra and Geometry summer programs are rigorous CCSS aligned courses designed to provide acceleration pathways to students who qualify based on SBAC scores, NWEA RIT scores, and first semester math grades. Students who qualify will be notified by their school prior to the summer.

Middle School—Ramp Up to Algebra

This summer course is for qualifying Math 7 students. The students learn specific topics from Math 8. If successful in this program with a grade of C or better, the students will be enrolled in Middle School Algebra 1 for the next school year.

High School—Ramp Up to Geometry

This summer Algebra course is for qualifying Math 8 students. If successful in this course with a grade of C or better, the students receive Algebra 1 credit and will be enrolled in Geometry in the 9th grade. The grade is recorded in the student's high school transcript.

[Additional Detail on Middle School Math Placement Criteria and FAQ](#)



San José Unified Math Pathways

