

Highly Capable Services in **Middle School**

Ellen Kaje, Ph.D.
Director of Categorical Programs
and Academic Support

Jennifer Etter
HiCap Instructional Specialist

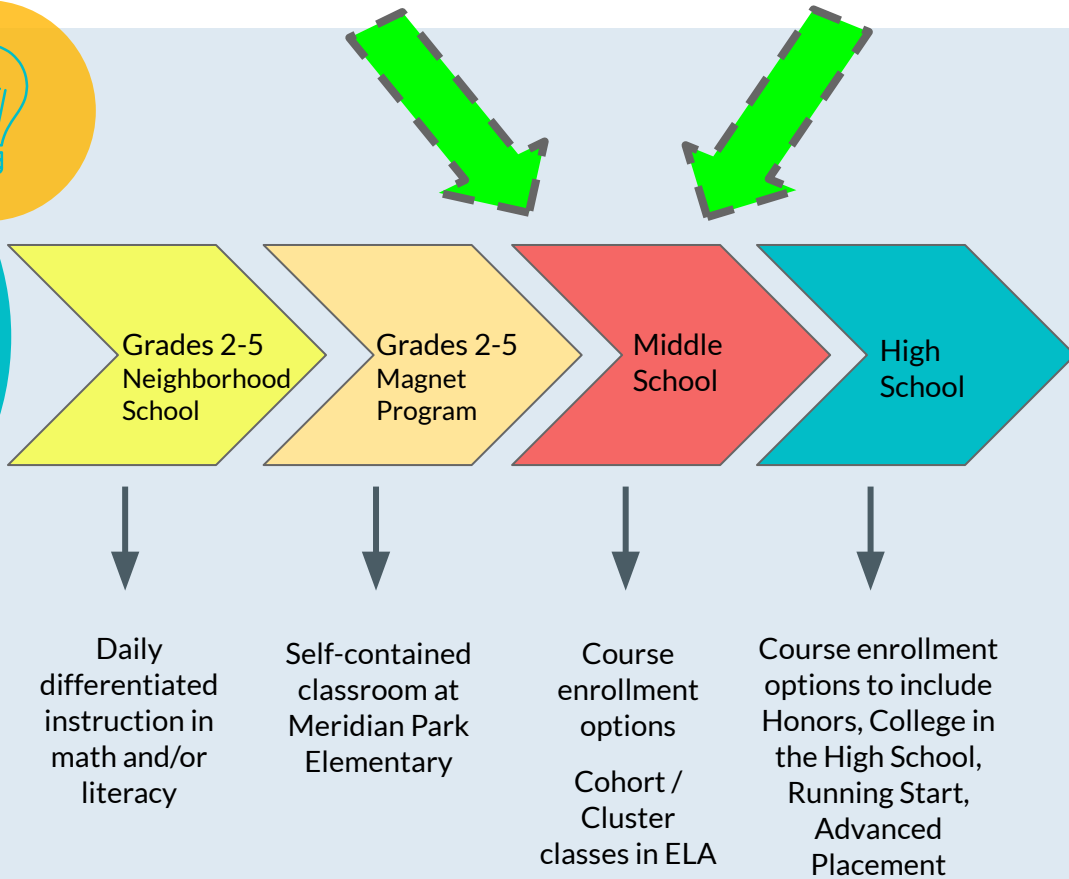
Kristine Lemmé
HiCap Program Specialist



What are the program goals?

- Provide appropriate challenge to promote growth and learning
- Allow for access to academic and intellectual peers
- Explore topics more deeply and through different ways of thinking

Understanding Middle School Services





English Language Arts (ELA) services

- Students in grades 6-8 are placed in either a **cohort** (class composed only of students identified as Highly Capable in ELA) or a **cluster** (small group of students identified as Highly Capable in ELA) within a class of English Language Arts/Humanities.
- Families do not select between cohort or cluster as student scheduling is determined by number of students, class selection and other factors.

Middle School



English Language Arts (ELA) services

- The Highly Capable **cohort/cluster** will:
 - Allow the teacher to customize the grade-level curriculum, standards, and instructional strategies to better meet the academic needs of students.
 - Provide increased access to intellectual peers.
 - Provide a supportive environment that meets the social/emotional learning needs of students in the Highly Capable Program.

Middle School



English Language Arts (ELA) services

Middle School

- If you do not wish your student to participate in a Highly Capable **cohort/cluster** classroom, you may decline Highly Capable services for your student for the school year.
- Forms to decline services can be found on the [Highly Capable website](#).

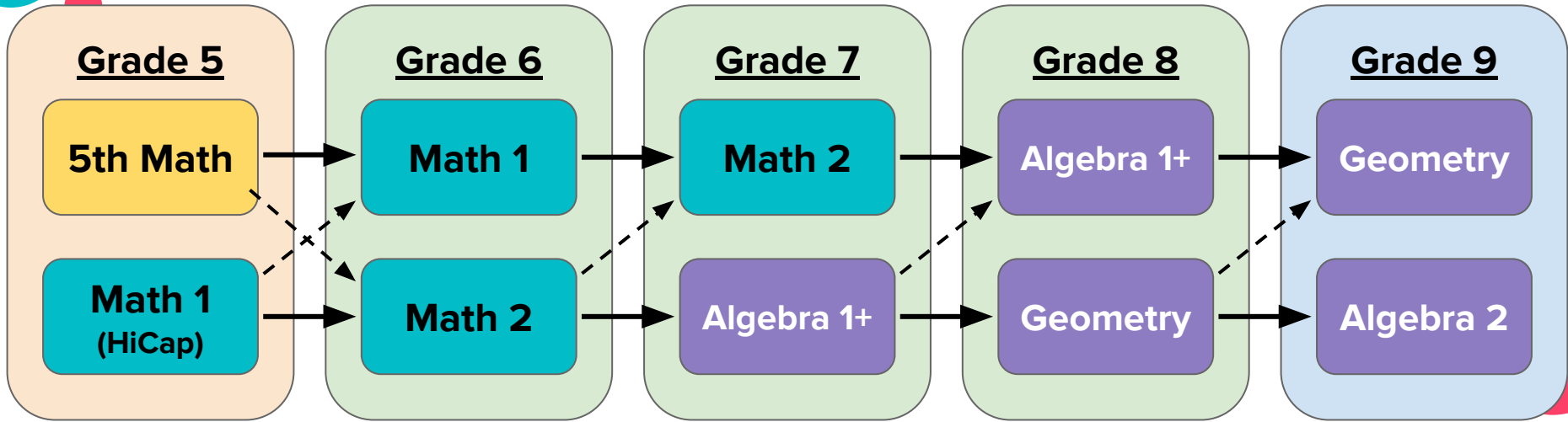


Math services

- Students select the next course on the middle school **math pathway**. Geometry is available in 8th grade.
- Skipping Math 1 is not recommended for all students newly eligible for HiCap math.
- Students who have struggled with Math 1 as 5th graders, may choose to register to take Math 1 in 6th grade. These students may choose to take Algebra 1+ in 8th grade and accelerate one-year during middle school.

Middle School

Current Middle School Math Pathway For HiCap Students



Color Code

Elementary Level Course
Middle School Level Course
High School Level Course

Arrows

————> Main
- - - -> Alternate

Notes

- Algebra 1 taken at Middle School is a compressed Algebra 1 course with supplemental 8th grade math content.
- Algebra 1+ and Geometry earns HS credit and impacts the HS GPA.





Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How will my child be supported if they miss a year in math?**
 - We will be providing families with Summer Boosters so students can learn key topics and skills they may have missed. Look for these in the 2nd week of June.
- **My student is newly identified in math. I'm worried about skipping math. Who can I talk with?**
 - Talk with your student's teacher and, for middle school options, your student's counselor at Kellogg or Einstein.



○ **If my child was identified in one area, can they retest in the other area?**

- Yes. Students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to register for opt-in summer testing. Families will be able to sign up through the Highly Capable notification sent through Parent Square in March.

If my student receives MLL or Special Education services can they receive those and Highly Capable services?

- Yes. If your student is eligible to receive services as a Multilingual Learner or through an IEP or 504 plan, those services will continue to be provided at middle school.

Frequently Asked Questions





Frequently Asked Questions

- **If my child participates in the Dual Language program, can they still receive Highly Capable services?**
 - Yes. In middle school, all students in the Dual Language program take math in English, so your child can take whichever math class is most appropriate.
 - In 6th grade only, the Humanities block in Dual Language is in Spanish instead of the HiCap Humanities cohort/cluster, so enrichment will happen within the classroom. In 7th and 8th grade, students in Dual Language take ELA and a separate Spanish language class, so students eligible for HiCap can participate in the ELA cohort/cluster in 7th and 8th grades.



• Thanks!

Questions?



Check our website: <https://www.ssd412.org/academics/highly-capable>

Or contact us: highlycapable@ssd412.org

