



## Advanced Off-Level Math Placement Test

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Kinawa 5th-6th Grade Middle School

**What is the purpose of the Advanced Math Placement Test?** Students placed in our general, grade-level classroom are clustered with students of like-ability and receive differentiated instructional support. Classroom teachers routinely differentiate instructional materials beyond grade-level content. The purpose of the placement assessment is to determine if your student *is* eligible to be placed in an accelerated mathematics course next year. The placement test is administered to measure your student's ability to problem-solve and apply mathematical concepts/procedures beyond the grade-level content.

*If your student participated in the 4th-grade Advanced Math Placement Test and was not placed in a **6 Honors Math (6H)**, your student's next opportunity to be assessed will be in the spring of the following year as a 5th-grader. The criteria to qualify for an Advanced Off-level Math Placement Test as a 5th/6th-grade student is as follows.*

**How are students selected and invited to participate in the off-level Advanced Math Placement Test?** To be invited, students must meet two out of the three NWEA criteria and have a national percentile of 90 or above.

**Current 5th-grade Student Scores**

- 4th Grade Spring (>90th National Percentile)
- 5th Grade Fall (>90th National Percentile)
- 5th Grade Winter (>90th National Percentile)

**Current 6th-grade Student Scores**

- 5th Grade Spring (>90th National Percentile)
- 6th Grade Fall (>90th National Percentile)
- 6th Grade Winter (>90th National Percentile)

**What if my child doesn't receive an invitation? Can my student "opt-in" to participate in the advanced placement test if not initially invited to do so?**

Students who do not meet the criteria above have the option to "Opt-In" to the placement test if they meet **all three** NWEA criteria with national percentile scores of 80 or above.

**Current 5th-grade Student Scores**

- 4th Grade Spring (>80th National Percentile)
- 5th Grade Fall (>80th National Percentile)
- 5th Grade Winter (>80th National Percentile)

**Current 6th-grade Student Scores**

- 5th Grade Spring (>80th National Percentile)
- 6th Grade Fall (>80th National Percentile)
- 6th Grade Winter (>80th National Percentile)

**How can I check my student's NWEA scores? When were my student's NWEA scores shared with me?** Your student's NWEA scores can be found on the *NWEA Parent Report*. NWEA student reports are shared throughout the school year.

**Should I register my student for the *middle school* advanced placement test?** The placement test assesses students on advanced, off-level curriculum material. Therefore,

participation in this process can be a frustrating and negative experience for some students. *We recommend that only students who currently have consistently demonstrated a superior level of mathematical ability, as determined by our screening data, take this test at this time. The test will cover advanced problem-solving and mathematical concepts/procedures emphasizing the math curriculum for the student's current grade level and above.* Students who meet the criteria and are placed in an **advanced math course** must **maintain an 87% or higher class average** to remain in the course and subsequent accelerated math courses.

**How do I register my student for the placement test?** All Kinawa Middle School parents/guardians will receive an email in the spring with information about the placement test, the qualifying criteria, and how to register your student for the test. If the criteria to register for the test are not met, the student will not be able to participate in the process at this time.

**When is the advanced math test offered?** The Advanced Math Placement test for Kinawa students will occur in the spring, prior to the start of the new school year.

**Where is the test session completed, and how long is the test session?** There will be one test session for 5th grade and one for 6th grade. The test sessions will be held at Kinawa Middle School and are set for a 2-hour time frame during the school day.

**Will there be a make-up session if my child is absent on the test date?**

One make-up test session will be held at Kinawa Middle School during the school day during the same week as the scheduled test session.

**Should my student prepare for the placement test?** Placement tests are extremely challenging and require students to have a deep, comprehensive understanding of advanced grade-level curriculum, including problem-solving and application. This can be a frustrating experience for students who are not currently at this advanced level of mathematical understanding. However, studying for the test is not recommended. It is important for your student to demonstrate their current level of mathematics mastery to help us make the best placement decisions. A study guide will not be provided. If you would like to review the Michigan K-12 Mathematics standards, you can find our district link [here](#).

**Is the placement test a grade-level test or beyond grade level?** The criteria to qualify for a placement test is high due to the nature of the advanced math classes. A student placed in 7 Honors Math as a 6th-grader or Algebra I as a 7th-grader will be on a two-year acceleration pathway. The 7 Honors class is an advanced class that moves at a rapid pace and covers 7th- and 8th-grade content. For these reasons, the advanced math test that will be given is beyond grade level, very challenging, and the process of partaking in the placement test could be a stressful, negative, and frustrating experience for your child.

**How will my student be informed about the results of the placement test?** You will receive a placement letter for your student. Students who have met the criteria will automatically be placed in Kinawa's 7 Honors math class as a 6th-grade student or Chippewa's Algebra I class as a 7th-grader.

**Will the placement assessment information be shared with my student's current and future math teachers?** The placement test information will be shared to help your child's teacher plan accordingly.

**How many students are accepted for an advanced math placement?** The advanced courses do not have a set number of students to be accepted. The courses are open to students who have met the established criteria.

**My student was not placed in the advanced math class. Will my student have another opportunity to be assessed and possibly join the advanced math classes later?** Kinawa and Chippewa middle school students who have NOT met the advanced math placement test criteria will have the opportunity to participate in an advanced placement test each spring as a 5th, 6th, and 7th-grade student.

**Can I appeal the placement decision if my student is not placed in an advanced math class?** Yes, there is an appeal process available after the assessment is completed and placement decisions are released. However, specific criteria must be met to qualify for an appeal. The placement letter will provide details on how to submit an appeal. The Advanced Math Placement Committee will review all appeals submitted by the deadline. Please note that appeals will not be accepted after the deadline, and final appeal decisions will be communicated to parents/guardians by June 1st. The decision of the appeal review committee is final.

**If my student does not meet the advanced math class criteria, are other options available to support their learning needs?** Students placed in our general, grade-level classrooms are clustered with students of like-ability and will receive differentiated instructional support. Classroom teachers routinely differentiate instructional materials beyond grade-level content.

**Where can I go to learn more about the advanced learning opportunities for my student?** For more information, including advanced learning opportunities, visit our district website's **Gifted & Talented** section using the link provided [here](#).

