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Manhasset Schools Acceleration Pathways – Frequently Asked Questions

Our District offers a wide array of academic pathways that are designed to help students develop their unique talents, passions, and interests. The pathways that we offer in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Engineering, Social Studies, and the Arts allow for deep study in each area. As students grow, so do their interests and passions. Therefore, our pathways are designed to be flexible, allowing students to transition onto our various pathways at different times.

When considering our accelerated pathways, parents should keep in mind the totality of their child's school experience and their objectives in managing their academic and extracurricular schedules. You will see in this FAQ document that many high-level courses are not necessarily dependent on early acceleration. Through strategic scheduling decisions that consider the holistic school experience, most students will develop a personalized pathway that demonstrates depth of knowledge and academic rigor without early acceleration.

In January 2025, the District conducted another comprehensive review of our mathematics and science acceleration process. This FAQ has been updated to reflect the outcomes of that review, including the updated criteria adopted September 26, 2025.

1. When can students accelerate in mathematics?

Most students who accelerate do so in 7th grade. A very small number of students who have mastered 6th grade learning standards before entering 6th grade accelerate in grade 6. These students have sometimes been exposed to the 6th-grade curriculum through outside private/extra-curricular mathematics experiences.

2. What is the difference in the mathematics curriculum for those who accelerate in grade 7 vs grade 6?

Grade 6 students have two opportunities for acceleration:

Students who successfully meet the entrance criteria for double-acceleration in grade 7 will skip the grade 7/8 combined course and move to Algebra Honors. This, like the accelerated grade 6 course, requires that students skip content. As such, this course is only appropriate for students who have demonstrated mastery of the 7th and 8th grade content.

The curriculum for the Math 7 Accelerated class is a single-year class that combines grade 7 and 8 mathematics. The course moves at a faster pace and covers more content than the grade-level course. *Importantly, no grade-level content is skipped in this course*. The result is that students will take 9th-grade math in 8th grade, accelerating them one year ahead of the regular pathway.

The small number of students who accelerate in grade 6 skip 6th-grade content. These students take the grade 7/8 combined course, Math 7 Accelerated, in grade 6. Therefore,

this course is only appropriate for those students who have already demonstrated mastery of grade 6 learning standards.

3. What are the criteria to accelerate in mathematics?

Acceleration in grade 7 is for students with high interest and aptitude for mathematics. Students who wish to enter double-accelerated math in grade 7 must meet the selection criteria.

Students who take Math 7 Accelerated (single acceleration) may qualify based on their achievement in grade 6 mathematics. Teachers will provide placement recommendations that consider performance, maturity, and independence. Although this recommendation will not disqualify a student, parents are encouraged to weigh it carefully prior to requesting acceleration in grade 7.

Students who wish to be considered for double acceleration in Grade 6 must sit for a secure examination and meet NWEA MAP thresholds as outlined below:

Secure Exam Score	Minimum Grade 5 NWEA Average Achievement
65–74	≥ 95%
75–84	≥ 90%
85–100	≥ 85%

For Grade 7 entry into double-accelerated mathematics:

Secure Exam Score	Minimum Grade 6 NWEA Average Achievement
65–74	≥ 95%
75–84	≥ 90%
85–100	≥ 85%

4. Why does the district have two mathematics acceleration pathways?

Most students who accelerate do so in 7th grade. The grade 7 acceleration pathway allows students to move faster and ultimately take AP Calculus AB or BC in their senior year.

The grade 6 and 7 double-acceleration pathway is designed for a very small number of students who can skip grade 6 or grade 7/8 mathematics. These students may ultimately take Multivariable Calculus in their senior year. Students must continue to meet minimum grade requirements in each course to remain on the pathway.

Grade	Single Acceleration (Typical Pathway)	Double Acceleration (Typical Pathway)	Double Acceleration (Alternative Pathway)
6	Grade 6 Math	Grade 7/8 Combined Math Course	Grade 6 Math
7	Math 7/8 Combined Curriculum Course	Algebra Honors	Algebra Honors
8	Algebra Honors	Geometry Honors	Geometry Honors
9	Geometry Honors	Algebra 2 Honors	Algebra 2 Honors
10	Algebra 2 Honors	Pre-Calculus Honors	Pre-Calculus Honors
11	Pre-Calculus Honors	AP Calculus BC	AP Calculus BC
12	AP Calculus AB or BC	Multivariable Calculus	Multivariable Calculus

5. If my child single accelerates in mathematics in grade 7, can they take Multivariable Calculus in their senior year?

Yes. Students may choose to do this by co-enrolling in Geometry and Algebra 2. Alternatively, students may occasionally seek outside courses from other registered NYS High Schools to enroll in a summer Geometry or Pre-Calculus course. However, parents should be aware that the depth and rigor of a 6-week summer course will not match that of a full-year Manhasset course. Therefore, this option is not recommended. Students must meet the minimum grade requirement for the summer course to use this alternative. Prior approval for this option is required.

6. Should I hire a tutor to pre-teach 6, 7, or 8th grade mathematics so that my child may be eligible to double-accelerate in mathematics?

We do not recommend hiring a tutor. The double accelerated pathway was designed for a very small group of students who already possess deep knowledge of the 6th grade learning standards, sometimes gained from outside private/extra-curricular mathematics experiences.

We urge families not to rush preparation for this pathway. Our review of student success in this pathway revealed that students who are tutored or pre-taught 6th grade mathematics often have knowledge gaps that may not be overcome, and subsequently these students often experience unnecessary pressure. As a result, these students may need to drop down into a less rigorous mathematics class because they are unable to maintain success throughout the secondary school mathematics pathway. This not only presents academic challenges but has a social-emotional impact as well.

Most students with high aptitude and interest in mathematics do well in grade 7 acceleration. Students who demonstrate long-term success in the grade 6 double acceleration pathway are those who do not rely heavily on tutors or preparation to be successful.

7. Why is the selection process for double acceleration in mathematics so rigorous?

The District has conducted two in-depth reviews of the double acceleration pathway in mathematics. The first, in 2019, found significant attrition: in some cohorts, nearly 50% of students originally placed in the program did not remain on the accelerated track.

The second review, conducted in 2025, revealed that approximately 45% of students selected for double acceleration did not meet academic expectations during middle school. In response, District administrators adjusted the identification process to reduce the likelihood of attrition and better support student success. Since the double-accelerated options require students to skip either 6th grade or 7th and 8th grade math depending on their entrance point, students must be exceptionally prepared to succeed. This is why the selection process is necessarily rigorous and selective.

8. Is accelerated 6th grade math a requirement to apply for the grade 7 AP Intensive Pathway in Science?

No. The Grade 7 AP Intensive Pathway has been decoupled from accelerated math.

9. How does the AP Intensive Pathway in Science differ from the Science Honors Pathway?

Like mathematics, most students who demonstrate a high aptitude and interest in science will take the Science Honors Pathway. Students who take the honors pathway typically take three AP science classes in high school. Some students may take four by taking two AP science classes in one or more of their high school years. For students following this pathway, additional AP courses are often taken in non-science classes as well.

As the name suggests, this pathway is very intense. Students should consider the totality of their high school academic and extracurricular schedules as well as outside-of-school commitments to determine if this pathway is right for them.

Grade	Honors Pathway	AP Intensive Pathway
7	Science 7	Earth and Space Science Honors
8	Regents Biology Honors	Honors Regents Biology/AP Environmental Sciences
9	Earth and Space Science Honors/AP Environmental Studies *	AP Biology
10	Chemistry Honors	AP Chemistry
11	AP Physics 1	AP Physics 1
12	AP Physics 2 or AP Physics C	AP Physics 2 or AP Physics C

*Students may be identified for the Earth Science Honors/AP Environmental Sciences Class if they maintain an “A” average in Biology Honors and receive their teacher’s recommendation.

10. If my child does not accelerate in grade 7, will they be able to take AP Physics 2 or Physics C in their senior year?

Yes. Like mathematics, students may choose to do this by co-enrolling in two science courses at a later point in their Secondary School career. Students must seek approval for this option and meet course prerequisites.

11. What is the selection process for the AP Intensive Science Pathway?

Because this pathway has students taking a College-Level Advanced Placement course in 8th grade, only a small number of students will qualify for the AP Intensive Science Pathway. Grade 6 students who wish to pursue this rigorous pathway are invited to sit for a secure assessment that evaluates their understanding of grade 6 science content, applied science skills, and the mathematical reasoning necessary for success in the Earth and Space 7 Honors course. The examinations are scored by a committee comprised of the Coordinator of Science, the Elementary Science Specialists, and secondary science teachers. Additionally, students' grade 6 lab and test average and trimester exams will be factored into the selection decision.

Students must earn a minimum of 16/20 points using the rubric below:

Secure Entrance Exam (0-10 points)	Trimester Exams (0-5 points)	Lab & Test Average (0-5 points)
96-100% = 10	96-100% = 5	98-100% = 5
90-95% = 9	90-95% = 4	87-97% = 4
85-89% = 8	85-89% = 3	70-86% = 3
80-84% = 7	80-84% = 2	65-69% = 2
75-79% = 6	75-79% = 1	1-69% = 1
70-74% = 5	70-74% = 0	0
65-69% = 4	65-69% = 0	0
Below 65% = 3	Below 65% = 0	0

12. Besides the AP Intensive Science Pathway, what other rigorous pathways are available to students interested in science?

Through Science Research, students complete independent research projects and are trained in problem-solving and research skills. Through their course work students develop

expertise in experimental design, data interpretation, and analysis through a series of hands-on activities culminating with an individual research project. Students can progress through a course sequence that includes an Introduction to Science Research, Advanced Science Research, and STS prep. Through this course sequence students participate in local and regional competitions where they showcase and defend their work to professionals in their respective fields.

13. Are there honors and AP opportunities available to students that are not connected to mathematics acceleration?

Yes. All AP classes (listed below) are available to any student who meets the pre-requisite requirements for enrollment in a particular class. All AP Science classes are open to any student who wishes to enroll in a class provided they meet the pre-requisites for that class.

Department	Course	Grade Level Course is Typically Taken
Art	AP Art & Design	11
Art	AP Art History	11 or 12
English	AP English 11 Language & Composition	11
English	AP English 12 Literature & Composition	12
World Languages	AP Spanish, French, Italian	12
Mathematics	AP Calculus AB	11 or 12
Mathematics	AP Calculus BC	12 (11 for double-accelerated)
Mathematics	AP Statistics	10, 11 or 12
Mathematics	AP Computer Science A	10, 11, or 12
Mathematics	AP Computer Science Principles	11 or 12
Social Studies	AP World History	10
Social Studies	AP United States History	11
Social Studies	AP Economics Micro & Macro	12
Social Studies	AP Macroeconomics	12
Social Studies	AP US Government & Politics	12
Social Studies	AP Comparative Government & Politics	11, 12
Social Studies	AP Human Geography	9, 10, 11
Social Studies	AP Psychology	10, 11, 12
Social Studies	AP Seminar	10, 11
Social Studies	AP Research	11, 12
Science	AP Chemistry	12 (grade 10 for AP Intensive)
Science	AP Physics 1	11
Science	AP Physics 2	12
Science	AP Physics C	12
Science	AP Biology	12 (grade 9 for AP Intensive)
Science	AP Environmental Science	12 (grade 8 for AP Intensive)

Honors level, pre-AP, and college credit-bearing courses are listed below:

Department	Courses	Grade Level Course is Typically Taken
Art	Pre-AP Art & Design	10, 11
Fine Arts	Repertory Company I, II, and III	10, 11, 12
Music	Symphonic Orchestra, Choir, Wind Ensemble	10, 11, 12
English	English 9H and 10H	9, 10
English	Broadcast Journalism I, II, III, IV*	9-12
World Language	Spanish/Italian/French IV (Pre-AP)	11
Science	Introduction to Science Research, Advanced Science Research, STS Prep	9-12
Science	Principles of Biomedical Science	9-12
Engineering (Project Lead the Way)	Intro to Engineering*, Principles of Engineering*, Aerospace Engineering, Computer Integrated Manufacturing*	9-12
Social Studies	Social Studies 9 Advanced, Social Studies 10H	9, 10
Social Studies	AP Capstone (AP Seminar* and AP Research*) *Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.*	10-12

*College Credit available

14. What other opportunities are there for rigorous coursework that may earn college credit and are not connected to acceleration?

Project Lead the Way, our engineering pathway, encourages students to adopt a problem-solving mindset with hands-on learning while developing college and career readiness. In three (3) out of the four (4) courses, students have an opportunity to earn college credit through the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). This is a rigorous program that carries honors weighting on the Manhasset transcript. In addition to the Project Lead the Way for engineering, we have added a Project Lead the Way course Principles of Biomedical Science.

In Broadcast Journalism 4 and 5, the final courses of the broadcasting sequence, students will produce Good Morning Manhasset, the secondary school's news show, as well as live sports and special events coverage. Students have an opportunity to earn college credit through Hofstra University's Lawrence Herbert School of Communication.

Many students may benefit from our continuum of courses in the Business Department. Students can enroll in Business & Career Exploration, Introduction to Business, Accounting, Marketing, and/or Applied Business Law. These courses serve as the foundational work for the capstone course, Virtual Enterprise, where students manage a virtual business firm and interact within a virtual global economy of other student-run firms. In some of these courses, students can earn college credit through Long Island University.

15. How does the District ensure transparency in accelerated pathways?

• Criteria Published: Entrance requirements posted before the first Grade NWEA administration.
• No Mid-Year Adjustments: Cut scores remain fixed for the year.
• Transparent Notifications: Families receive acceptance letters with final report cards.
• Exam Results Included: Secure exam scores are provided in notification letters.

Additional Information can be found at: Curriculum & Instruction – Manhasset Public Schools: https://www.manhassetschools.org/domain/37

• 9/26/2025 Parent Letter

• 9/25/2025 Board of Education Update