Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School

Charlotte Catholic High School

August 2025

Dear 8th Grade Parents and Guardians,

We hope the school year is off to a strong and joyful start for your family. As your child begins their final year at Holy Trinity and prepares for the transition to high school, we want to provide you with important information about the math placement process for rising 9th-grade students at Charlotte Catholic High School.

We are sharing this information early in the school year so that students and families have sufficient time to understand the math placement process and ask questions well in advance of the testing window.

All 8th-grade students planning to enroll at Charlotte Catholic will take a high school placement test at CCHS on February 21, 2026. The math portion of this test will include an evaluation of the student's proficiency with key algebra concepts (from the attached list) and their general problem-solving skills. The math portion of the test will consist entirely or mostly of open-response questions and calculators will not be permitted.

The student's performance on this math assessment will be used by CCHS to determine the best math placement for their 9th-grade year. Students may be placed into Algebra 1, Advanced Algebra 1, Advanced Geometry, or Honors Geometry.

Students who take PreAlgebra in 8th grade will be placed in Algebra 1 or Advanced Algebra 1. Many of the algebra topics on the attached list are topics that are studied in the first semester of PreAlgebra. In determining between Algebra 1 or Advanced Algebra 1, consideration will be given to the student's performance on placement test questions involving *those* topics studied in PreAlgebra.

Students who take Algebra 1 in 8th grade may be placed in an Algebra 1 course in 9th grade if deemed necessary to solidify key algebra concepts and skills. A second assessment of their Algebra 1 skills—similar in substance and format—will be offered in April for students who are taking Algebra 1 this year but would like to be reconsidered for Geometry in the 9th grade.

Our shared goal is to ensure that each student is placed in the math course that best supports their long-term success and growth. In addition to placement test performance, CCHS will consider the following factors:

- Similar to placement in many CCHS math courses, the student's year-to-date math test average and midterm exam grade, **each excluding any extra credit such as test corrections or bonus points.**
- The 8th-grade math teacher's evaluation of the student's standard of attributes such as attitude, work ethic, quality and timeliness of homework, and asking for help when needed.
- Standardized math test scores.

Honors Geometry is a rigorous course designed for students who possess a strong work ethic, an ability to think critically and problem-solve, and an ability to persist and stay on task during class. Placement in Honors Geometry requires a minimum 90% year-to-date math test average **excluding** any extra credit as well as "excellent" and/or "very good" standards on the teacher's evaluation of the student's attributes.

We encourage you to review the algebra topics on the attached list and help your child begin preparing gradually. More information about high school course placement will be communicated by CCHS later this school year.

If you have specific questions about math placement at Charlotte Catholic or about the math portion of the High School Placement Test, please contact Mr. Tim Galarde, Math Department Chair, by email: TAGalarde@charlottecatholic.org. All questions about your student's progress in 8th-grade should be directed to their Holy Trinity teachers.

Thank you for your partnership in your child's academic journey.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bobby Conrad
Principal
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School

Ms. Michelle Marcelais
Math Core Leader, Math Teacher (Gr 8)
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School

Mr. Kurt Telford
Head of School
Charlotte Catholic High School

Mrs. Sarah Sovchen
Director of Counseling Services
Charlotte Catholic High School

Mr. Tim Galarde
Math Department Chair
Charlotte Catholic High School

Algebra Topics Assessed on the Math Portion of the CCHS High School Placement Test:

- Understanding the real number properties
- Simplifying and evaluating expressions (with or without substitution) including using the real number properties, order of operations, absolute value expressions, combining like terms, properties of exponents, and operations with integers, fractions, and decimals,
- Solving multi-step, one-variable equations
- Determine whether an equation is an identity or is an equation with no real number solution
- Solving multi-step literal equations
- Solving a system of two-variable equations graphically and algebraically, including analyzing the results
- Graphing coordinates and linear equations
- Determining algebraically whether a value or ordered pair is a solution to an equation (without solving the equation)
- Understanding multiple representations of a relationship between a table, a graph, and its equation
- Square roots: operations and simplifying
- Greatest common factor and least common multiple
- Translating verbal phrases into expressions, equations, or inequalities, including understanding of basic math terms such as product, quotient, and prime
- Fractions and decimals: operations, simplifying, rounding, meaning of the fraction bar, converting mixed numbers
- Dimensional analysis: converting amounts and rates, simplifying large fractions
- Setting up and solving proportions
- Understanding and using the percent equation
- Analyzing a table to determine whether the relationship is proportional, using a linear equation to complete a table
- Determining slope multiple ways, working with linear equations in all forms (slope-intercept, point-slope, standard), understanding and determining x- and y-intercepts
- Writing linear equations, including for lines that are parallel or perpendicular
- Word problems studied in eighth grade
- Polynomials: factoring monic polynomials, and multiplying, adding, and subtracting polynomials
- Understand key elements of a graph, including intercepts, domain, range, independent and dependent variables, whether the graph is increasing or decreasing
- Solving and graphing multi-step, one-variable inequalities