MISD Math Pathways Explanations & FAQs

Core Math Pathway

This is grade-level math on a typical trajectory. This aligns with national expectations of the courses students must complete in high school. Through this Pathway, students can complete Precalculus by graduation without accelerating or “skipping any content or courses.

Single-Acceleration Math

Students who accelerate one level in math can complete either Intro to Calculus or AP Calculus AB by graduation. Acceleration for this Pathway can occur in one of several ways, including completing the compacted Math II/III course at IMS or concurrently enrolling in Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 in high school. These options are open to all students, and no testing is required to pursue either of these acceleration pathways.

Double-Acceleration Math

Students who accelerate two levels in math can complete AP Calculus BC by graduation. Acceleration for this Pathway can occur if students complete the compacted Math II/III course in sixth grade and then complete Algebra in seventh grade, Honors Geometry in eighth grade, Honors Algebra 2 in ninth grade, Honors Precalculus in tenth grade, AP Calculus AB in eleventh grade, and AP Calculus BC in twelfth grade. (*This is a typical progression for students who receive Code 33 HiCap services in 5th grade.*)

Another Pathway for double acceleration in math is available to all students, regardless of whether they received Code 33 HiCap services in elementary school. This Pathway can occur if students complete Math I in sixth grade, compacted Math II/III in seventh grade, Algebra in eighth grade, concurrent enrollment in Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 in ninth grade, Honors Precalculus in tenth grade, AP Calculus AB in eleventh grade, and AP Calculus BC in twelfth grade. This pathway does not require any testing, nor does it require students to “skip” any math courses.

Triple-Acceleration Math

Students who are exceptional in math can complete all high school-level math course offerings before their senior year; however, this will require students to enroll in math courses at other institutions, and MISD does not guarantee their acceptance or access to these courses. Additionally, highly selective colleges want to see a continued progression in math - please research carefully before considering triple-acceleration options, as what MIHS can provide is limited to AP Calculus BC.

Students who complete Honors Algebra 2 in eighth grade are considered triple-accelerated (regardless of the identified Pathway options selected to complete the course). This is the most accelerated Pathway offered through MISD until a student reaches eleventh grade, at which point a student may concurrently enroll in AP Calculus BC and AP Statistics. Families will be responsible for identifying the math course(s) and availability of courses (including transportation) for triple-accelerated students, as MIHS does not have a math course available for them in twelfth grade.

FAQs

1) **If my student is currently in 5th-7th grade and they want to take the Math Proficiency Assessment to "skip" a math course at IMS, how do I register them?**
   A: Complete this Math Proficiency Assessment Nomination Form

2) **Can my student concurrently enroll in courses outside of MISD to accelerate in math?**
   A: No. MIHS math courses are rigorous and prepare students for success on both state and national assessments. Additionally, students who complete AP math courses through MIHS score very well on AP assessments in comparison to students who complete their math courses elsewhere. Consequently, students who wish to accelerate in math must have the foundational experience and knowledge from our instructors. As shown on the MISD Math Pathways graphic, if/when students want to enroll in math concurrently, they must do so in our MIHS math courses.

3) **Can my student enroll in an online math course through an approved provider to accelerate in math?**
   A: No. As mentioned in #2 above, MIHS math courses are far more rigorous than vendor-provided online courses. The more complex the math, the more a solid foundation in early concepts is required.

4) **Why doesn't MIHS offer a course more advanced than AP Calculus BC?**
   A: MIHS is a comprehensive high school. As such, we provide students with many opportunities in a variety of different disciplines, including arts, sciences, math, humanities, CTE, world languages, and electives. We are a single high school district, and we serve all students - those who need scaffolding and supports and those who are high achievers.

5) **Does my student need to receive HiCap Services in elementary school to "max out" their math opportunities in high school?**
   A: No. All students have multiple opportunities to accelerate in math without skipping content or grade levels. Students have opportunities in both middle and high school to accelerate in math regardless of their identification for highly capable services in elementary school.

6) **My student is moving into the Mercer Island School District. How do we ensure we place them in the most appropriate course?**
   A: We know that MISD has students enter from a wide variety of schools, public, private, international, etc. And that math course progressions vary at other schools. We are committed to working with families to place students in the most appropriate courses to help them build their skills and confidence as they transition into the school district. This placement process might include the following: report cards/transcripts, past school post-course information, interviews with students, and knowledge-check assessments.

7) **What summer math course can my student take?**
   A: There are a number of credit recovery courses available for a semester worth of credit. However, there are no year-long (Two semester) approved summer courses.
   Please see #2 above.