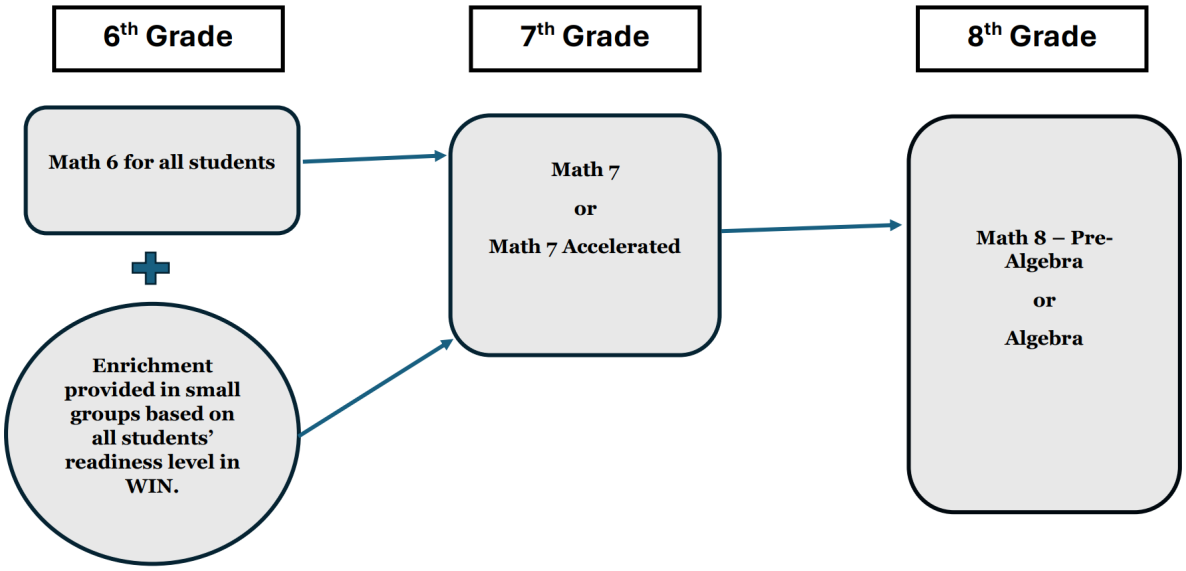
SMS Math Pathways and Recommendations FAQ

Q: What are the current math pathways at SMS?

Below is our math pathways at SMS. All students take 6th grade math and have the opportunity for enrichment and support during WIN based on student readiness and need. In 7th grade, students will be recommended for either Math 7 or Math 7 Accelerated. Students in both classes will have opportunities for enrichment and support during WIN. In 8th grade, students will be recommended for either Math 8 or Algebra. Students in both classes will have opportunities for enrichment and support during WIN.



Q: What is the goal of acceleration at the middle level?

The goal of acceleration is to place students in the most appropriate learning level for a successful educational experience. Students who are testing beyond their grade level and are academically ready to be challenged are optimal candidates to be placed into an accelerated course.

Q: What is the difference between Math 7 and Math 7 Accelerated?

Math 7 is the traditional 7th grade curriculum as laid out by the NYS Next Generation Standards. This course is where students build upon their knowledge with negative numbers, fractions, decimals, integers, and solving equations.

Math 7 Accelerated is a rigorous, fast-paced course that covers all 7th and all 8th grade NYS Next Generation Standards. Completion of this accelerated course prepares students for the demands of high school Algebra in their 8th grade year.

Q: What is the difference between Math 8 – Pre Algebra and Algebra?

Math 8 – Pre Algebra is the traditional 8th grade curriculum as laid out by the NYS Next Generation Standards. This course is where students build their algebraic foundations such as solving equations, graphing functions, and exploring the real number system.

Algebra is a high-school credit-bearing course as laid out by the NYS Next Generation Standards. Students who are enrolled in Algebra will take the NYS Regents exam in June.

Q: Can my student still take Algebra in 8th grade if they aren't accelerated in 7th grade?

Yes. We monitor student progress throughout the school year and provide enrichment opportunities to teach pre-requisite skills and content. If a student meets the requirements at the end of 7th grade, then Algebra will be recommended.

Q: Can my student take Calculus or advanced classes in HS if they don't take Algebra in 8th grade?

Yes. The high school has multiple pathways for students to take advanced classes as well as Calculus by senior year if they did not take Algebra in middle school. You can find those pathways here: SHS Math Pathways

Q: What are the requirements for a student to be recommended for 7th Grade Accelerated math?

We use a rubric to evaluate student readiness for acceleration. We typically recommend students who receive a score of 9 or higher from the rubric.

Criteria	3	2	1	0
IXL Level-Up	Above grade-level	On grade-level	Below grade-level	Far below grade-level
Mid-Year Benchmark	Student score is a 95% or higher	Student score is a 90-94%	Student score is a 85-89%	Student score is below a 85%
Current Course Average	Student average is a 96% or higher	Student average is 93-95%	Student average is 90-92%	Student average is below 90%
Work Habits/ Teacher Recommendation	Highly Recommend • Performs very well on class assessments • Thinks extremely critically about all math problems • Puts forth effort and shows a high level of motivation	Recommend • Performs well on class assessments • Thinks critically about most math problems • Puts forth effort and shows motivation	Recommend w/ Reservations • Performs average on class assessments • Thinks critically about some math problems • Puts forth some effort and shows little motivation	Not Recommended • Performs poorly on class assessments • Thinks critically about few math problems • Puts forth minimal effort and motivation

Q: What are the requirements for a student to be recommended for Algebra in 8th grade?

We use a rubric to evaluate student readiness for acceleration. We typically recommend students who receive a score of 9 or higher from the rubric.

Criteria	3	2	1	0
IXL Level-Up	Above grade-level	On grade-level	Below grade-level	Far below grade-level
Mid-Year Benchmark	Student score is a 95% or higher	Student score is a 90-94%	Student score is a 85-89%	Student score is below a 85%
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Q: Can I challenge the placement suggestion given to my student for next school year?

Yes. If you are in agreement with what course has been recommended for your child then no further action is needed. Should you seek to enroll your child in an academic level that is higher than what has been advised you may do so by completing an Academic Advising Form. This form does not prevent the student from pursuing a higher level but serves to ensure clear communication of information between school and home regarding course selection.