Learning Recommendations: HS Math

This document was written to give teachers understanding and language to support students to make the best choices for them. Feel free to use or adapt the content to use with students or families as is fitting with your school's procedures. Please direct questions to Lena Jones, Dawn Wallace or Rich Mellish.

Decision Matrix: *all of the following are inclusive general education classes*

Bridge to Algebra 1 **(Not offered at LHS)**	**Math skill and knowledge:** Frequently cannot access Math 3 concepts and skills, finds tests overwhelming, larger complete gaps **Grades:** likely unable to pass Math 3 without significant additional supports or modifications **Focus:** ***strengthening pre-algebra skills*** and concepts taught in middle school, helping students understand how to engage successfully in math courses *The following year students in Bridge to Algebra 1 are recommended to take Intensified Algebra 1 (or Algebra 1 + Lab) unless they score at a high level, and/or build a high degree of independence in math*
Intensified Algebra 1 **(2-period course)**	**Math skill and knowledge:** Has weaknesses in math skills that may stem back multiple years, has some basic knowledge of most Math 3 skills, relies on scaffolds, models, support from teacher or other adults **Grades:** C+ or below, may often score 40-60% on tests **Focus:** ***Chunking and pacing*** daily instruction, spiral instruction, reviewing pre-requisite skills, building understanding of how to learn math and engage successfully in math courses **Other:** This course is recommended for students who, with prompting and support, engage. This course is not recommended for students with significant behavior and attendance issues as a primary factor of math achievement.
Algebra 1 + Lab	**Math skill and knowledge:** Want additional support with math OR has weaknesses in math skills that may stem back multiple years, has some basic knowledge of most Math 3 skills, relies on scaffolds, models, support from teacher or other adults **Grades:** Wants extra support with math OR C+ or below, may often score 40-60% on tests **Focus:** ***Pre-teaching, re-teaching, support with independent work.*** Same core class as other students, then provided additional support for homework, review of prerequisite skills, additional practice and prep for future lessons. Coaching. **Other:** This course is recommended for students who, can handle the pace of a typical math focus lesson but need help with executive functioning, need review of past skills, help with independent work and regular reminders to keep up.
Algebra 1 *without additional supports*	**Math skill and knowledge:** At or close to meeting standard in Math 3, SBA, Momentum. **Grades:** B- or better **Focus:** ***On grade level work.*** Minimum review of prior learning. **Other:** This course is recommended for students who, can handle the pace of a typical math focus lesson and only need typical levels of support (asking questions, teacher feedback, etc).

Decision Matrix: *New HS Courses*

I am in Algebra 1 and am deciding between…

Geometry	Advanced Geometry
One or more of the following are true: ‣ Prefer more deliberate pacing to allow more time to absorb / practice complex math ideas ‣ Algebra 1 was hard, and I needed additional help in math, and could benefit from some review of Algebra skills ‣ I don't plan to continue math through Pre-Calculus OR ‣ I want to keep the option of Pre-Calculus open, but am not in a hurry to get there *This course will cover the core geometry standards and reinforce algebra skills. The complexity, depth, and breadth of application may be more limited or focus more on hands-on, concrete applications.*	Most of the following are true: ‣ I want to take Advanced Algebra 2 then Pre-Calculus or the most challenging course available ‣ I prefer to move quickly through math content / lessons ‣ I enjoy complex math problems ‣ I earned a B+ or better in Algebra 1 ***This course IS the same course as the pre 2024-25 Geometry class.*** *No changes to the scope and sequence. Teachers may enhance the course based on the interests and needs of their students.*

FAQ: *Is there a way to go from Geometry to Advanced Algebra 2 if I change my mind later?*

Yes! ISD will provide guidance for how to adjust your pathway if you change your mind later. It will include additional learning either independently or through online summer courses.

I am in Geometry and am deciding among…

Algebra 2	Advanced Algebra 2	Personal Finance
One or more of the following are true: ‣ Prefer more deliberate pacing to allow more time to absorb / practice complex math ideas ‣ Algebra 1 was hard, and I needed additional help in math OR I earned below a B+ in Geometry ‣ I don't plan to continue math through Pre-Calculus OR ‣ I want to take 2-years to get ready for Pre-Calculus by taking Algebra 2, then Bridge to Pre-Calculus *This course will cover the Algebra 2 standards. The complexity, depth, and breadth of application may be more limited or focus more on hands-on, concrete applications. Some ideas are introduced in Algebra 2 and then reach mastery in Bridge to Pre-Calculus.*	Most of the following are true: ‣ I prefer to move quickly through math content / lessons ‣ I want to go straight from Algebra 2 to Pre-Calculus ‣ I enjoy complex math problems ‣ I earned a B+ or better in Algebra 1 & Geometry ***This course IS the same course as the 2024-25 Algebra 2 class.*** *No changes to the scope and sequence. Teachers may enhance the course based on the interests and needs of their students.*	One or more of the following are true: ‣ I want to learn more about real-life use of money and the math that I will use to make good decisions with money ‣ I want to take another math along with Algebra 2 *Students going straight to a 4-year college must take an Algebra 2 course.* *Personal Finance can be taken as the 3rd math credit or senior year quantitative class to meet graduation requirements or college entry requirements.* *OR* *Personal Finance can be taken as an elective or second math class.*

I am in Algebra 2 and am deciding among…

Bridge to Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus	Personal Finance
One or more of the following are true: ‣ Prefer more deliberate pacing to allow more time to absorb / practice complex math ideas ‣ Algebra 2 was hard, and I needed additional help in math, I need more time with Algebra 2 ideas in order to be confident I can use them ‣ I want to keep the option of Pre-Calculus open, but am not in a hurry to get there *This course will reinforce Algebra 2 standards and introduce some Pre-Calculus standards. It will likely be similar, but not identical, to the current Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry course.*	Most of the following are true: ‣ I want a faster path to Pre-Calculus or the most challenging course available ‣ I prefer to move quickly through math ‣ I enjoy complex math problems ‣ I earned a B- or better in Algebra 2 *This course IS the <u>same</u> course as the 2024-25 Pre-Calculus class.*	One or more of the following are true: ‣ I want to learn more about real-life use of money and the math that I will use to make good decisions with money *Students may take Personal Finance in addition to other math classes.*