



## ***Middle School Math Pathways***

Mead School District uses a variety of standardized assessment data, along with teacher input, to place students in a math class that is most appropriate for them\*. Students may change pathways in middle school, with approval, if data suggests the change better meets the academic needs of the student.

All pathways can lead to Advanced Placement (AP) and college-level math courses by the time a student graduates from high school. Students may choose any high school math course if they meet the prerequisites. Please refer to high school course guides for more details.

### **Standard Pathway**

*A rigorous set of standards that meets the needs of the majority of our students.*

- Students are taught college and career readiness standards.
- Students move through the content at a standard pace with opportunities available to move to advanced pathways with evidence of readiness.
- Courses: Math 6 / Math 7 / Math 8

### **Advanced Pathway I**

*A pathway for a small number of students who are ready to move at an advanced pace with deeper understanding.*

- Students are taught college and career readiness standards.
- Students move through three years of content (sixth, seventh and eighth grade standards) in two years and then take high school level Algebra I.
- Courses: Advanced Math 6 / Advanced Math 7 / Algebra I

### **Advanced Pathway II**

*For a very small number of students who already show mastery of grade level content and are ready to move at a very advanced pace.*

- Students skip sixth grade standards.
- Students move through two years of content (seventh and eighth grade standards) in one year and then take high school Algebra I and Geometry.
- Courses: Advanced Math 7 / Algebra I / Geometry

*\*A student's IEP may determine math placement.*



### ***Middle School Math Pathways Placement Process***

In order to best meet the educational needs of our students, Mead School District uses the following process to determine placement in middle school math courses and pathways:

#### **Winter:**

- We gather student scores from state tests and our nationally normed screener, MAP. ● From that initial data, we gather more information for students who may be best served in one of the advanced pathways. We cast a “wide net” to consider as many students as the data suggests could benefit from accelerated mathematics.
- Parents, guardians, and teachers are asked for specific input that focuses on student characteristics that, according to research, have positive impacts on student achievement in accelerated math pathways. Parents always have the right to choose the Standard Pathway, opting out of advanced math pathway options.

#### **Spring:**

- We gather additional data from state tests and other assessments administered in the spring.
- Learning & Teaching then recommends students to each middle school for the Standard Pathway, Advanced Pathway I, and Advanced Pathway II.

#### **Summer:**

- Middle school administrators create final course enrollments based on budget, staffing, and space.
- Enrollment in math pathways are announced when all student schedules are released to families.

#### **Please remember:**

- Parents and teachers can recommend any student to be considered for enrollment in middle school advanced pathways. Final decisions are made by middle school building administrators.
- All pathways can lead to Advanced Placement and college-level math courses in high school.
- Students can switch pathways in middle school with approval if data suggest the change will better meet educational needs.
- Any questions regarding this process can be addressed to Jeff Naslund, Director of Secondary Education at 509-465-6005 or [jeff.naslund@mead354.org](mailto:jeff.naslund@mead354.org)
- Questions about specific placements should be addressed with the appropriate middle school.