Math Scheduling for Freshmen
Frequently Asked Questions*

Which math class should I take freshman year?

Table 1

Current 8th Grade Math Class	Proficiency Test (All members of the Class of 2030 are required to take a math proficiency test for placement.)
Common Core Math 8; Pre Algebra; 8th grade Mathematics	Algebra I proficiency test to place into any of the following: • Algebra I (with Math Lab Support) • Algebra I • Qualify for summer Algebra for possible advancement to Geometry/Honors Geometry, with qualifying grade • Qualify for second semester only of summer Algebra I for possible advancement to Geometry/Honors Geometry, with qualifying grade
Yearlong Algebra I course; Integrated Math I; Common Core Math 9	Algebra I proficiency test to place into: • Algebra I • Geometry or Honors Geometry, with qualifying score
Yearlong Geometry course in 8th grade *(have previously taken a yearlong Algebra I and they both appear on your transcript from an your middle school)*; Integrated Math II	Algebra I/Geometry combined proficiency test to place into any of the following: • Honors Algebra II *(We do not recommend that freshmen take regular Algebra II.*
Yearlong Algebra II course from an accredited school; Integrated Math III	**First**: Algebra I/Geometry proficiency test to demonstrate eligibility for the Algebra II test **Second**: students who receive a qualifying score on the first test may take the Algebra II proficiency test to place into Precalculus or AP Precalculus. The second test will be scheduled after the first test is scored.
Beyond Algebra II	Please contact the Mathematics Department Chair, Ms. Sherrie Raposa at **sraposa@presentationhs.org** to inquire about placement.

What score do I need on the math proficiency test to advance to the next math class?

The Math Department uses a holistic approach to the placement of your daughter as a freshmen, and their goal is to schedule your daughter into the highest course she is ready to succeed in. One of the most important factors in this placement is her score on the placement test, but all other information known about your daughter is also considered, such as her 8th grade scores in Math, her 8th grade GPA, and her HSPT scores. Generally speaking, scores on the placement test that typically indicate a student is ready to move on to the next level of math are around a B or C.

What math courses does Presentation High School offer?

You can find information about our math curriculum here.

I took Common Core math in middle school and I am not sure what math course I should take next year.

All students are required to take a math proficiency test so that we can place you at the appropriate level math course.

What will my four years of math look like given my placement?

The following are typical pathways from freshman year to senior year.

Table2

Pathway	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
A	Algebra IA (with Math Lab)	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus/ Statistics I/II
B	Algebra I	Geometry/Honors Geometry	Algebra II/Honors Algebra II	Precalculus/ AP Precalculus
B	Geometry/Honors Geometry	Algebra II/Honors Algebra II	Precalculus/ AP Precalculus	Calculus/ AP Calculus AB or BC
D	Honors Algebra II	AP Precalculus	AP Calculus BC	Honors Multivariable Calculus

If I take Algebra I during freshman year, will I be able to take advanced math classes in order to be competitive during college admissions?

- Yes. Colleges emphasize four years of math so that students have a strong foundation for college-level courses. Typically, a freshman in Algebra I will be able to advance through Precalculus by the end of the senior year.
- A student also can take advantage of moving into honors classes by performing well in a regular Algebra I class.
- Many students do not take Advanced Placement math classes in high school and are still accepted to four-year colleges or universities.
- Students who receive a B+ in each semester of Algebra I during freshman year are eligible to take summer Geometry after freshman year and advance to Algebra II/Honors Algebra II in the sophomore year, if they receive a qualifying score in Geometry. This pathway would allow the student to take a calculus class prior to graduation. No other summer advancement is permitted.

Can I take a math class over the summer to advance to a higher level math in the fall?

- We allow qualifying students to take either Algebra I or Geometry over the summer at Presentation High School prior to freshman year. Students qualify by earning qualifying scores on our proficiency tests. (Note: We do not allow any other math advancement over the summer outside of Presentation.)
- Students who earn a B+ or higher in each semester of Algebra I during freshman year have the option to take Geometry over the summer between freshman and sophomore year. They must earn a grade of B or higher to qualify for Algebra II or a grade of B+ or higher, and have a 3.3 GPA in math to qualify for Honors Algebra II.

Table 3

Summer	Freshman	Summer	Sophomore	Summer	Junior	Senior
---	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II/ Hon. Algebra II	---	Precalculus/ AP Precalculus	Calc/AP Calc AB or BC
Algebra I	Geometry/ Hon. Geometry	---	Algebra II/ Hon. Algebra II	---	Precalculus/ AP Precalculus	Calc/AP Calc AB or BC
Geometry	Hon. Algebra II	---	AP Precalculus	Bridge to Calc BC	AP Calc BC	Hon. Multivariable Calculus

Can I advance through Algebra II over the summer so I can start high school in Precalculus?

No. You should be very careful regarding Algebra II. It is a course that plays a crucial role in your success in advanced math courses. We do not allow advancement in Algebra II over summer. Algebra II must be taken at Presentation as a yearlong course.

Can I self study and skip the Geometry class by taking a proficiency test?

- No. All students must take a geometry course from either your middle school as a class shown on your transcript, or from Presentation High School. In addition to being a Presentation requirement, this is also a college entrance requirement.
- According to the UC subject requirements: "All students must complete a geometry course or integrated math with geometry content." Neither AP Calculus AB/BC nor IB HL Mathematics exam will satisfy the geometry requirement.
- Self-studying a course such as Geometry is not considered as complete. All of the math courses at Presentation are UC approved.

I have already taken Algebra II. Why do I have to take the Algebra I/Geometry Test before I can take the Algebra II Proficiency Test?

Algebra II curriculum varies across schools and we want to ensure that students have a solid foundation in Algebra I and Geometry as well. This solid foundation is necessary for students to be successful in our Precalculus and AP Precalculus courses.

I am currently taking Algebra II at the Russian School of Math. Do you accept credit from this course for advancement in math?

We do not accept credit from an after school tutoring center or RSM because we want to be consistent with accepting students based on the courses taken at their middle school. Various after school centers have different accreditation that creates inconsistency in our placement policy.

I tested into Honors Algebra II but I'm thinking I'll take regular Algebra II so I can ease into freshman year. Is that a good idea? In other words, why don't you recommend taking Algebra II freshman year?

Traditionally, freshmen enroll in Algebra, Geometry, Honors Geometry, or Honors Algebra II. Though you are advanced in your course subject, the regular Algebra II does **not** prepare you as well for future **honors** math classes. By taking Algebra II as a freshman, students are actually less likely to place into future honors or AP math courses. Taking this non-honors upper division math class as a freshman makes it hard for a student to switch to an honors course of study.

If you choose to take Algebra II, your path might be: Algebra II, Precalculus, Calculus, and then AP Statistics or AP Calculus AB or BC. However, it's very rare for a student to move from Calculus to AP Calculus AB or BC.

If you pass the proficiency test to be placed in Honors Algebra II, we recommend that you take the honors class so you can stay on the honors track throughout your high school math career. If choosing Honors Algebra II just seems like too much then we recommend starting in Honors Geometry which allows for AP Calc senior year.

Can I switch from an honors math class to regular math during my freshman year if I find it too challenging?

Yes, Presentation allows students to make the switch from an honors pathway to a regular pathway if a student finds an honors course too difficult than expected. A student has a one-week deadline to change the course that is announced in the daily bulletin. A student may not change the course after the deadline for requesting the change has passed.

Can I switch from a regular math pathway to an honors math pathway for the next school year?

Yes. If a student excels in the regular math class and meets the prerequisite for the honors classes they may choose to move to the honors level the following year. We do not allow making a switch for year-long classes in the middle of the school year.

Does Presentation offer math competitions?

We offer monthly California Math League math contests during lunch and an annual AMC Math contest for students who are interested in competitive math. Participation in math contests also counts towards Mu-Alpha Theta (math honor society for juniors and seniors) membership.

What support is available at Presentation for students who are not strong math students?

Presentation offers an expansive math curriculum to meet the diverse needs of our students. Given the learning loss associated with the remote learning environment over the past few years, we've added additional Pathways so that our students can experience success (i.e., Algebra I with Math Lab). We also offer a vast number of upper division courses so that students can choose options that align with their strengths and postsecondary goals.

Outside of our curriculum, teachers provide office hours weekly and peer tutoring is available at the study center.

MATH LAB

What is Math Lab?

- The Math Lab is a dedicated and supportive environment designed to help students enhance their understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts.
- In the Math Lab, a qualified math teacher will provide personalized attention and guidance to address specific areas of difficulty.
- The Math Lab will offer tailored supplemental work that reinforces classroom learning. These materials are crafted to deepen students' understanding and provide additional practice to solidify their skills.
- Students will have opportunities to work in small groups, fostering a collaborative learning environment. Group activities will encourage peer-to-peer learning, discussion, and problem-solving, helping students gain different perspectives and insights.
- The Math Lab employs a variety of instructional strategies to cater to different learning styles. These include hands-on activities, interactive tools, and practical applications to make learning math engaging and effective.
- Overall, the Math Lab aims to build a stronger mathematical foundation for students, ensuring they have the skills and confidence to succeed in their math classes.

Is Math Lab Required? When is it?

Attendance at the Math Lab is mandatory, and students can choose to attend either before school or after school, depending on their individual schedules. Students will attend math lab a minimum of twice per week.

What if I am doing well? Can I stop attending Math Lab?

Student progress will be continuously reviewed. At the end of the quarter (10-week grading period), multiple measures will be used to determine a student's readiness to withdraw from Math Lab.

**If you have any additional scheduling questions please contact the Scheduling Coordinator, at scheduling@presentationhs.org.*

For questions about math curriculum, placement or contests please contact the Mathematics Department Chair, Ms. Sherrie Raposa at ***sraposa@presentationhs.org***

Updated 3/6/2026