



Advanced Off-Level Math Placement Test

Kinawa 5th-6th Grade Middle School - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of an off-level Advanced Math Placement Test for 5th and 6th-grade students?

The placement test is administered to measure your student's ability to problem-solve and apply mathematical concepts/procedures well beyond the current grade-level content for a potential advanced, two-year acceleration, math placement as a 6th-grade or 7th-grade student next year.

How are students selected to participate in the off-level Advanced Math Placement Test?

Parents/Guardians of 5th-grade or 6th-grade students who meet the criteria below will be sent a link to register for the placement test. Students must meet the criteria of scoring a national percentile of **85 or above on all three** NWEA test sessions to be eligible to participate.

5th Grade NWEA- Adaptive Math Universal Screening Scores

- ☐ **4th Grade Spring (>85th National Percentile)**
- ☐ **5th Grade Fall (>85th National Percentile)**
- ☐ **5th Grade Winter (>85th National Percentile)**

6th Grade NWEA- Adaptive Math Universal Screening Scores

- ☐ **5th Grade Spring (>85th National Percentile)**
- ☐ **6th Grade Fall (>85th National Percentile)**
- ☐ **6th Grade Winter (>85th National Percentile)**

When will I learn more details about the spring placement test?

All parents/guardians of 5th-grade and 6th-grade students who **meet the criteria** will receive an email in March to provide information about the test and the dates for test sessions at Kinawa Middle School.

- The "registration email" will **be sent only to those students who meet** the criteria above.
- The email will contain **steps to register** your student for the assessment
- You **must** register your student by the deadline listed in the February email.
 - Late registrations **will not** be accepted.

Parents/Guardians of students who **do not** meet the invitation criteria above **WILL NOT** have the option to register your student to participate in the Advanced Math Placement Test.

- Not qualifying at this time is not a barrier to future opportunities.
- If your student does not qualify at this time, they will be placed in their appropriate grade-level math course. Your student will have the opportunity to be assessed during the district's spring assessment window the following year, after having additional time to grow and demonstrate readiness for a potential 2-year acceleration as a 6th-grade student or a 1-year acceleration as a 7th-grade student.

How can I check my student's NWEA scores? When were my student's NWEA scores shared with me?

Your student's NWEA scores are mailed home and will continue to be mailed after each NWEA testing session. Parent reports are provided after each testing session in the fall, winter, and spring.

Should I register my student for the Advanced Placement Test?

The placement test is intended for students who consistently demonstrate high achievement in math and have met the rigorous screening criteria. These criteria are set at a high level to reflect the demands of advanced math classes

- The assessment includes advanced material, which can be challenging and frustrating for most students.
- This is an optional test. However, to be evaluated for an advanced math placement, your student must participate in the process.
- *We recommend that only students who currently have consistently demonstrated a superior level of mathematical ability, as determined by the screening data and classroom performance, take this test at this time.*

Is this placement test aligned with their grade level? No, the test is ***not a grade-level assessment***.

The test includes math content well beyond your student's current grade level.

- The off-level assessment will cover advanced problem-solving and mathematical concepts/procedures, emphasizing the math curriculum of the student's current grade level and well above, with a two-year advancement.
 - The assessment will consist of multiple-choice items, fill-in-the-blank responses, short-answer questions, and complex problem-solving tasks. In addition, select items will require students to demonstrate depth of knowledge by providing extended written responses that clearly explain their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving processes.
 - A study guide is not provided for the assessment. If you would like to review grade-level Michigan K-12 Mathematics Standards, you can do so using the district-provided link [here](#). The advanced pathway curriculum progresses quickly, covering 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade material while at Kinawa.

When and where will the test sessions be offered? Test sessions will be offered at Kinawa Middle School during the school day. The exact day and time will be published in advance. The District also offers Advanced Math Placement Test sessions that occur in the fall for *new students*. Information regarding testing criteria and how to register for the test as a new student can be found [here](#).

If my student is absent on the test date, will there be a make-up session? If your student is absent on the day of the scheduled test session at your building, they may participate in the makeup test session at Kinawa Middle School. The District does not provide additional opportunities beyond this make-up session.

How long is the Advanced Math Placement test session? Each test session is scheduled for **two hours**. Students must pass all portions of the paper-and-pencil, timed test to meet the criteria for advanced placements.

Will there be additional opportunities for my students to be supported? Students placed in our general, grade-level classroom for math instruction are clustered with students of like-ability and receive differentiated instructional support. Classroom teachers routinely differentiate instructional

materials beyond grade-level content. Students not currently enrolled in an advanced math course will have additional opportunities to be assessed in the spring of 5th, 6th, and 7th grades.

How will my student be informed of the placement test results? Parents/Guardians will receive a placement letter. Students who have met the test criteria will automatically be placed in Kinawa's 7 Honors math class as a 6th-grade student or Algebra I Honors as a 7th-grade student.

- The assessment is **not a diagnostic tool**. It is for placement purposes only.
- Therefore, the **placement letter will not contain** an itemized analysis or percentages to denote your student's performance on the placement test.
- Copies of the placement test **are not returned or shared**, per District policy.

What course will my student be placed in the following school year, if they meet the advanced math placement criteria?

The advanced pathway curriculum progresses quickly, covering 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade material while at Kinawa Middle School.

- Students scoring at or above the established criteria on the Advanced 6H Placement Test will be placed in the 6 Honors, an **advanced math course** for 5th-grade students at Kinawa Middle School.
- Students scoring at or above the established criteria on the Advanced 7H Placement Test will be placed in the 7 Honors, an **advanced math course** for 6th-grade students at Kinawa Middle School.
- Students scoring at or above the established criteria on the Advanced Alg I Placement Test will be placed in the Alg I Honors, an **advanced math course** for 7th-grade students at Chippewa Middle School.
 - Once students are accepted into the Advanced Math program, they will be required to maintain a high standard of proficiency to remain in the program.
 - Advanced math students at Kinawa **are required** to maintain a Standard-Based Grading proficiency scale score of 3 to remain in the course. The *middle school math flow chart* can be found [here](#).
 - Students in the advanced math courses at Chippewa and Okemos High School **are required** to maintain an 87% overall grade to remain in the course and subsequent accelerated math courses. The *high school math flow chart* can be found [here](#).

Will the placement assessment information be shared with my student's current and future math teachers? Placement information will be shared to plan accordingly.

How many students are accepted for an advanced math placement? Advanced math courses do not have a set number of students to be accepted. The courses are open to students who have met the established criteria.

Can I appeal the placement decision if my student is not placed in an advanced math class? An appeal process is available after the assessment is completed and placement decisions are released. However, specific **criteria must be met to qualify for an appeal**. The placement letter will provide details on how to submit an appeal. The District Advanced Math Placement Committee will review all appeals submitted by the deadline. Please note that appeals will not be accepted after the deadline, and final appeal decisions will be communicated to parents/guardians by June 1st. The decision of the appeal review committee is final.

If my student does not meet the criteria for the advanced math class, are there other options available to support their learning needs? Students placed in our general, grade-level classrooms are clustered with students of like-ability and will receive differentiated instructional support. Classroom teachers routinely differentiate instructional materials beyond grade-level content.

Where can I go to learn more about the advanced learning opportunities for my student? For more information, including *advanced learning opportunities*, *math flow charts*, and *Frequently Asked Questions* documents, visit our district website's **Gifted & Talented** section using the link provided [here](#).

