



Fairfield College Preparatory School

A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

March 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Fairfield Prep! You are reading this letter because your son has completed a full year Algebra I course and is currently enrolled in a full year Geometry course and is applying to begin his course of math studies at Fairfield Prep with Algebra II. Every school system establishes its own Algebra I curriculum. Although many programs cover the same major topics that we cover in Algebra I at Fairfield Prep, there are some differences, particularly regarding the depth of exposure. Some school systems may emphasize a topic more in Algebra I and less in Algebra II or vice versa.

The Algebra II courses at Fairfield Prep are fast-paced, assume excellent mastery of Algebra I skills, and require precise work. Students who have not taken Algebra I at Fairfield Prep may encounter topics in Algebra II that they are less proficient in than other students in the class. Freshman students in Algebra II often find that they are the only freshman in their section, which can potentially affect a student's comfort in asking questions, seeking extra help, or working in teams with other students. Please speak to your son about these challenges and make sure that he understands that placement into Algebra II is an option, not a requirement. In the past, some freshman students who had concerns about their algebra preparation or retention decided to repeat Algebra I during their freshman year at Fairfield Prep. If your son does make this decision, he would not have to repeat Geometry. He would advance from Algebra I to Algebra II for his sophomore year, Pre-Calculus for his junior year, and Calculus for his senior year.

For your son to be able to earn placement in Algebra II, he is required to take a math placement test. On this test, your son must demonstrate that he has mastered the algebra topics that we at Fairfield Prep consider essential to future success in our mathematics program and that he has retained the major concepts in geometry. The second page of this letter states the list of topics that will be tested on the placement test. Please take this opportunity to speak to your son's math teacher regarding the exposure that your son has had to these topics and his preparedness for this test. Your son should take some time to review all of the topics that will be on the placement test.

In addition to the placement test, please send the following link to your son's current mathematics teacher for an updated recommendation for placement: www.fairfieldprep.org/mathplacementrec

As there is no procedure for retesting, it is imperative that your son is well prepared for the placement test that will be given on **Saturday, April 25th, 2026, at 8:30 AM or Tuesday, April 28th 2026, at 4:30 PM at Fairfield Prep**. If he is unable to attend on either of those days due to illness, please e-mail me at mmillott@fairfieldprep.org as soon as possible. If you have questions regarding his placement, please contact me. I look forward to working with you and your son during the next four years.

Sincerely,

Molly Millott
Mathematics Department Chairperson

FAIRFIELD COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Placement Test Information

Placement Test Information: Students testing for Placement into Algebra II

The Placement Test will take place on Saturday, April 25, at 8:30 AM or Tuesday, April 28, at 5:00 PM. For Saturday's test, please arrive at Fairfield Prep no later than **8:15 AM**. The test will begin promptly at **8:30 AM**. For Tuesday's exam, please arrive at Fairfield Prep no later than **4:15 PM**, as the exam will begin promptly at **4:30 PM**. Please enter through the Main Entrance (parking lot side) of Fairfield Prep. You will be met by both Prep upperclassman and administrators who will guide you to the correct exam room.

The exam is a ninety-minute exam. For the Saturday exam, students should expect to be completed with the test at approximately 10:15 AM. For Tuesday's exam, students will be done approximately at 6:45 PM. The score that a student earns on the exam will be the number of questions answered completely correctly out of forty.

Students should bring at least two sharpened pencils for the test. **Students should also bring a scientific calculator that can perform trigonometric operations with them for the test. Students are allowed to bring graphing calculators, but these calculators must not have any stored programs.**

When you arrive at Fairfield Prep, please identify yourself as a student who will be taking a placement test for Algebra II. You will be directed to the correct room for this test.

List of Topics:

The following topics should be reviewed before taking the placement test. Students should study for the placement test like they would for a final exam:

Algebra Topics:

- Operations with Real Numbers (Integers and Fractions)
- Solving Linear Equations
- Solving Inequalities
- Absolute Value (Definition of and Solving Equations Involving Absolute Value)
- Monomials and Polynomials (Adding, Subtracting and Multiplying; Laws of Exponents; Factoring Binomials, Trinomials and with the GCF)
- Solving Quadratic Equations by Factoring, Completing the Square and the Quadratic Formula
- Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying and Dividing Algebraic Fractions
- Ratios and Proportions
- Slope
- Writing Equations of Lines
- Graphing Lines and Inequalities
- Solving Systems of Linear Equations Algebraically
- Radicals (Simplifying; Operations; Solving Radical Equations)

Geometry Topics:

- Vertical Angles, Parallel and Perpendicular Lines
- Congruent and Similar Triangles
- 30-60-90 and 45-45-90 Triangles
- Right Triangle Trigonometry and the Pythagorean Theorem
- Parallelograms, Trapezoids, and Other Special Quadrilaterals
- Area Formulas
- Word problems that make use of any of the above topics

THERE ARE NO RE-TAKES FOR THE PLACEMENT TEST. A STUDENT'S PLACEMENT WILL BE BASED UPON HIS PERFORMANCE ON THIS PLACEMENT TEST.