



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 is currently enrolled in a full-year Algebra I course and is applying to begin his course of math studies at Fairfield Prep with Geometry. Algebra I programs vary from school system to school system. Curricula at different schools may emphasize different topics and expect different levels of competence in certain topics. Since Algebra I provides the foundation for all of your son's future math courses at Fairfield Prep, it is imperative that he has not only been exposed to a full range of topics, but more importantly, that he has retained and is capable of applying those topics. If your son is currently taking Algebra I and has struggled in this class, it is far more beneficial for him to repeat Algebra I than to try to forge ahead. For that reason, we administer a placement test to all incoming students who wish to place out of Algebra I and into Geometry. Your son must demonstrate on this test that he has mastered the algebra topics that we consider essential to future success in our mathematics program at Fairfield Prep.

The second page of this document 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 25, 2026, at 8:30 AM or Tuesday, April 28th 2026, at 4:30PM at Fairfield Prep**. If he is unable to attend either of these days due to illness, please e-mail me at mmillott@fairfieldprep.org as soon as possible.

Any student who does not take the placement test will automatically be enrolled in Algebra I. If your son performs well on the placement test, he will be placed into Geometry. If his test score indicates that he has not mastered the algebra topics that we consider essential to future success in our mathematics program, he will be placed into Algebra I. 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 Geometry

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 test will consist of forty free-response questions. 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 with them for the test. There is no calculator use allowed on the test!

List of Topics:

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

- 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
- Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying and Dividing Algebraic Fractions
- Ratios and Proportions; Direct Variation
- Percent Problems
- Slope
- Writing Equations of Lines
- Solving Systems of Linear Equations Algebraically
- Word problems that make use of any of the above topics.

The Algebra I course that students are currently enrolled in should cover the topics listed above. If a student is placed into Geometry, teachers will assume that students have a thorough background in these areas. These topics are a part of Fairfield Prep's Algebra I curriculum and are used in Geometry.

Additionally, the following topics are taught in Fairfield Prep's Algebra I course but are not included on the placement test:

- Functions (Domain and Range; Evaluating Functions)
- Graphing Linear Equations and Inequalities
- Inverse Variation
- Radicals (Simplifying; Operations; Solving Radical Equations)
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Solving Quadratic Equations by Completing the Square and the Quadratic Formula
- Right Triangle Trigonometry

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