

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PARENTS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Why are these middle school changes being made?
 - As a result of the Pandemic, middle school students continue to struggle with mathematics and literacy. The additional time on grade-level content will allow teachers to better address the learning needs of all students.
 - In support of the School Board's Strategic Plan Goal 2: Support high expectations for academic performance and expand opportunities for every student.

- What is driving the change for all middle school students to take Algebra I before leaving middle school?
 - In support of the School Board's Strategic Plan Goal 2: Support high expectations for academic performance and expand opportunities for every student.
 - Students entering high school with an Algebra I credit have the opportunity to take higher level mathematics courses during the high school years.
 - Access to Algebra I provides additional opportunities for every student to access high school specialty programs that require Algebra I as a prerequisite course.

- What will the middle school mathematics course sequence look like for students in 2023-2024 and beyond?

6th Graders in 2023-2024

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Pre-Algebra 6 (all of 6th grade content and integrating certain 7th grade content)	Pre-Algebra 7 (all of 8th grade content and integrating the remainder of 7th grade content)	Algebra I
Pre-Algebra Intensified (all of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade content)	Algebra I	Geometry

7th and 8th Graders in 2023-2024

7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade
Math 7	Math 8	Algebra I
Pre-Algebra 7	Algebra I	Geometry
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II

- What will the schedule look like for kids?
 - Mathematics and English instruction every day
 - Grade 6: ~75 min per day = 375 min per week
 - Grades 7 and 8: ~300 min per week
 - Electives
 - Grade 6 - One full-year elective choice: Band, Orchestra, Chorus, or Drama/Art (one-semester each)
 - All Grade 6 students receive an “exploratory wheel” that provides exposure to 9 week mini-courses in commonly-requested electives: Introduction to Computers, Technology and Engineering Foundations, Exploring Family and Consumer Sciences, and World Language Exploratory.
 - Grades 7 - Two full-year elective choices (e.g., Band, Orchestra, and Chorus) or a combination of semester and/or full-year electives
 - Grade 8 - Two full-year elective choices (Band, Orchestra, Chorus, and World Languages) or a combination of semester and/or full-year electives
- NOTE: A full list of all other electives can be found on pages 49-56 of the [2023-2024 Program of Studies](#))
- If a student transfers to Stafford in grade 7 or 8 and hasn't had the same coursework as others, how will they be supported and what math classes will they take?
 - Placement depends on each student's unique situation. As always, transfer students' transcripts will be considered, including a potential examination of course objectives from the current or previous course in another state or division. If necessary, interventions intended to accelerate or augment instruction to place a student on a trajectory for grade 8 Algebra I will be provided. These interventions may come in various forms that may include individually designed targeted supports and/or summer programs designed to provide additional instruction.