

Frequently Asked Questions for WCHS 9th grade Mathematics

1. What class should my child sign up for?

Current Course (8 th Grade)	Next Course (9 th Grade)
Algebra Prep	Algebra
Algebra	Geometry or Honors Geometry
Geometry	Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2

2. What level?

- We encourage students to enroll in a class that will challenge them but not overwhelm them.
- The current teacher may be willing to make a suggestion so that student and parent can make an educated decision about best placement. However, the middle school will not be providing formal recommendations.
- While the math department values learning over grades, a C or better is ideal, even though credit is earned for a D or better.

3. What do 9th grade teachers provide for students who struggle?

- Math teachers plan lessons using a variety of instructional strategies to support all students.
- Every teacher offers extra help outside normal class meetings.
- Mu Alpha Theta, the math honor society, offers student tutors during lunch and after school every day.
- Related Math is an optional class that provides extra support and reinforcement for Algebra 1 students. Interested students should register for both Algebra 1 and Related Math concurrently.

4. What are typical characteristics of successful honors-level students?

- Demonstrate superior expertise of the content
- Persevere through problems that may not provide all needed information
- See relationships and patterns, easily
- Have an affinity to taking mathematical risks, and recover quickly from unsuccessful attempts

5. What does a classroom look like for an honors course?

- Honors and on-level curriculum are not written as separate courses. Extra tasks are contained within the honors courses to facilitate the necessary deeper exploration and learning to meet the needs of honors students.
- Additional (+) standards will be required tasks in honors courses
- Instructional decisions made in honors courses are designed to prepare students for AP Calculus.

6. Can students enrolled in Honors drop down to on-level if they are not performing well?

- Maybe.
- Based on the staffing we receive from MCPS we try accommodate all student requests. However, sometimes this is not possible. If On-level classes are at capacity, then Honors students will not be able to move levels.
- It is important for parents and students to discuss the commitment to Honors prior to registration.

If parents or students have additional questions please contact the Churchill Math Resource Teacher, Audrey Phillips at Audrey_s_phillips@mcpsmd.org