

Introduction to 6th Grade Math

Placement Information for 5th Grade Families

For most core subjects in middle school, all students participate in the same course (e.g., Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and World Language). However, in math, we offer multiple math courses in each grade. Fifth grade classroom teachers, as well as the entire team of math professionals, work hard to recommend a placement for each student that provides the right level of challenge without being overwhelming.

Your child's math placement recommendation will be shared at the spring conference with your child's fifth grade teacher. Teachers will base their recommendation on four criteria: San Francisco Math unit milestone tasks, STAR universal math screeners, SBAC assessment results, and how your child responds to the pace of instruction in the classroom. *All students will be recommended for either Math 6 or Accelerated Math 1 for 6th grade.*

During the conference, you will be able to share questions and observations about your child. You will have the opportunity to request an alternate placement if you feel it is appropriate for your child. Any requests should be shared with your child's 5th grade teacher or building math coach prior to April 17, 2024.

We know that there may be questions about the math placement process, and what a recommended math class means for the child's learning in future grades. Therefore, we wanted to provide the following background information in advance of your conference.

What do the math pathways look like?

A math pathway is the course progression from one grade level to the next.

	6th Grade Courses		7th Grade Courses		8th Grade Courses		9th Grade Courses
①	Math 6		Math 7		Math 8		Algebra
②	Accelerated Math 1		Accelerated Math 2		Algebra		Geometry
③	Accelerated Math 2		Algebra		Geometry		Algebra II with Trigonometry

- The first pathway is the grade level math progression at Timothy Edwards. Students enroll in Math 6, Math 7 and Math 8 across their years at TEMS. This is the most common math placement for 6th graders.
- Students in the second pathway experience content at a faster pace each year, consolidating the study of three years of content standards (6th, 7th and 8th) into two (6th and 7th grades).
- The third pathway is for individual situations in which a student is placed into Accelerated Math II in 6th grade. A placement in this pathway is by school personnel only, and students placed in this course will be required to demonstrate pre-mastery of grade 6 Accelerated Math 1 content on a screening test in April.

We do not automatically give the test to all students, as it includes content for which students have had no instruction. However, any student who would like to participate is welcome to. If you would like your child to take this screening test, it will occur in April. Please share your request with your child's teacher during the spring conference.

Can a student change math pathways?

Yes. Students are not locked into a pathway. It is important to know that each spring, students are recommended for a math course for the following year. This means that in the spring of 6th grade, students may be recommended for Math 7, Accelerated Math 2, or Algebra. Students may move to a different pathway based on their goals, performance and individual needs. This allows us to continually work to meet the needs of individual students.

What do students learn in math at Timothy Edwards Middle School?

The Common Core math standards are explored at each grade level, with an emphasis on the math content described in the chart below.

MATH CONTENT		
Math 6	Math 7	Math 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area, surface area and volume• Ratios• Unit rates and percentages• Dividing fractions• Decimal arithmetic• Expressions and Equations• Positive and negative numbers• Data and statistics: measures of center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scale factors• Proportional relationships• Percentages• Operations with rational numbers• Expressions, equations and inequalities• Angle relationships, drawing shapes and solid geometry• Measuring circles• Probability and sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rigid transformations and congruence• Dilations, similarity and slope• Proportional and linear relationships• Linear equations and linear systems• Functions and volume• Exponents and scientific notation• Pythagorean theorem and irrational numbers• Numerical and categorical data

Accelerated Math I course content

Accelerated Math II course content

Thank you in advance for partnering with us to ensure a smooth and successful transition to middle school!

If you would like more information about our 6-12 math program, please visit our middle school math information page, where you will find a link to [“Introduction to 6-12 Math.”](#) This QR code will also take you to the same place:

