

Introduction to TEMS Math

Placement Information for 6th and 7th 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. Math teachers 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 based on several criteria: unit assessment tests, STAR universal math screener, SBAC assessment results, and how your child responds to the pace of instruction in the classroom.

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 students. Students on this pathway take Algebra in grade 9.
- 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). Students on this pathway take Accelerated Math 1 in grade 6, Accelerated Math II in grade 7, and Algebra in grade 8.
- The third pathway is for individual situations in which a student is placed into Accelerated Math II in 6th grade, Algebra in 7th grade, and Geometry in grade 8. A placement in this pathway is by school personnel only, and students placed into these courses are required to demonstrate content mastery on a placement test. It is very rare to move into this pathway as it involves skipping full year of instruction on foundational math topics.

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.

However, most students remain on a pathway throughout middle school. While it is possible to move to a new pathway, we are thoughtful with this request as it means the student will not have instruction in some of the middle school content. We have created our middle school courses to provide a strong foundation for students to continue the study of math in the high school and beyond. Students are usually recommended for the next course in sequence to ensure that they have instruction in all topics.

If you would like more information about the 6-12 math program, please follow [this link](#) to the 6-12 math course sequences. In this document, you will see that regardless of a student's math course in the middle school, there is access to honors courses and all AP courses (AP Calculus and/or AP Statistics) should a student desire one of these courses in high school. This chart does not show every possible combination of courses for a student, as each year in high school a student's schedule is customized to their needs, goals and interests. However, it shows the most typical course sequences in high school.

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	Algebra
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing relationships • Linear equations and inequalities • One and two variable data • Functions – function notation, domain and range • Systems of linear equations and inequalities • Exponential Functions • Quadratic Functions • Quadratic Equations

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 through 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:



