

A Guide to Math Placement for Incoming 6th Graders: Newport Middle School

It is our goal to meet the individual math needs of each student at Newport Middle. An appropriate math placement should give students an opportunity to be successful, apply an appropriate level of rigor and provide them with a pathway to high school math readiness. It is our intention to place all 6th graders in the math course that best fits their individual needs.

How are students placed in 6th grade math courses?

The NMS Math Department and the Sam Case 5th Grade Team work together and use a variety of data to place students appropriately. STAR score, state test score, current level of math instruction, work ethic, rate of learning and needed pace of instruction are factors we consider when placing a student.

Potential Courses for 6th Graders:

Math 6a: This course is designed to meet the needs of those students who have not yet mastered core math concepts from elementary school. The course will focus on core mathematical skills necessary for success in middle school and will work to prepare students for high school math. Math 6a students will most likely take Math 7a or Math 7 as a 7th grader.

Math 6: Most students entering NMS will take Math 6 as their first middle school course. Students placed in Math 6 will have demonstrated proficiency of 5th grade math concepts. The course builds upon the foundational skills developed in elementary school and will focus on 6th grade Common Core Standards. Math 6 students will most likely take Math 7 as a 7th grader.

Honors Math 6: Students placed in Honors Math 6 will have demonstrated mastery of 5th grade math concepts. Students placed in this course have a need for faster paced instruction. They typically enjoy math, grasp concepts quickly, and show perseverance when dealing with new and difficult problem solving concepts. Honors Math 6 students will most likely take Accelerated 7th/8th as a 7th grader.

Accelerated 7th/8th: Students who have demonstrated exceptional math skills in elementary school may be placed the Accelerated 7th/8th course. To be considered for this course students must have completed 6th grade math (with mastery) prior to entering NMS. They must also pass a placement test. Students in Accelerated 7th/8th will learn 7th grade math, 8th grade math and Algebra I in two years. If a student begins this course in 6th grade, they will likely have to take Geometry at Newport High School as an 8th grader (transportation is not provided). Accelerated 7th/8th is a two year course. Students will remain with the same teacher for both years of the course.

*Please see the NMS Math Pathways flowchart for a visual representation.

*Please know initial math placements are not permanent. If the NMS Math team has evidence of a needed placement change, we will make that change.