

Middle School Math Placement

Revised February 2017

Baker Middle School has created and adopted math placement guidelines to ensure that all BMS students complete the necessary mathematics requirements and are placed in the most appropriate courses for math success. In light of the scope and sophistication of the mathematics courses we offer, these guidelines are organized around a set of rigorous concepts and skill-based touchstones for students at all grade levels of middle school. Please note: Since all students in grades K-5 take grade-level-based math courses, the following placement guidelines apply only to grades 6 through 8.

Common Core Mathematics Pacing

Baker Middle School's math courses are based on the recommendations in *Appendix A of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*.

Most students will begin middle school in **Math 6**. Some students who demonstrate a depth of understanding, with evidence of mastery of both current grade level standards and the ability to reason about standards beyond the current grade level, may be placed in **Advanced Math 6**. Advanced Math 6 is the first course in the Common Core compacted curriculum; the course contains Common Core standards for grade 6 and part of grade 7. After grade 6, students typically progress through the Common Core standards as shown in the table to the right. Course titles may vary. (For example, the compacted course at grade 7 is titled **Advanced Math 7** even though the majority of the standards covered are for grade 8.)

Algebra I and subsequent courses are taken for high school credit and will be noted on the student's high school transcript, even if taken at Baker Middle School. At Fairborn High School there may be more than one course at each level with varying degrees of rigor.

Math Pacing Middle School through High School

Common Core Grade Level Pacing

Math 6

Grade 6

Math 7

Grade 7

Math 8

Grade 8

Algebra I

Grade 9

Geometry

Grade 10

Algebra II

Grade 11

Pre-Calculus

Grade 12

Common Core Compacted Pacing

Math 6 & Math 7 – Part 1

Math 7 – Part 2 & Math 8

Algebra I

Geometry

Algebra II

Pre-Calculus

Calculus

Guidelines for Math Placement

Math placements are made using objective criteria established collaboratively by the BMS Math Department, Building Administration, and Curriculum Director. These criteria are organized around overarching themes which are aligned with course level proficiency. They are as follows:

- **Organization and Study Habits:** Student is able to demonstrate good organization and study habits that include but are not limited to note taking, sequencing, timely homework completion, etc.
- **Reasoning Skills:** Student is able to demonstrate problem-solving skills, both orally and on written assignments
- **Summative Assessments:** Student is able to demonstrate course and grade level specific proficiency on tests, quizzes, and projects during the current year.

Middle School Advanced Math Placement Qualifications

Automatic Qualification:

Current BMS Students: Current BMS students who are enrolled in an advanced math class and have earned an “A” for each of the first three grading periods automatically qualify for advanced math placement the following school year. These students will be automatically enrolled in the next advanced math classes unless a parent/guardian requests otherwise.

Newly Enrolled Students: Incoming 6th graders and newly enrolled 7th and 8th graders will have their qualifications reviewed before a math placement is determined. Students enrolling from outside Fairborn City Schools may be asked to take a separate placement assessment to aid in placement decisions.

Reviewed Qualification:

BMS students are placed into the leveled math class in which we believe they will flourish. There is considerable flexibility built into the mathematics programming so that as students mature and are exposed to different levels of mathematical concepts and skills, they can be placed in a course that best meets their needs. Within each math class, there are many opportunities for students to work individually on math concepts and skills tailored to their needs. (For example, students regularly use an online learning program designed to remediate needed areas or extend the student’s learning beyond what the class may be focusing on.) Because there is much opportunity for individualized instruction in this way, students are not “locked” into a track.

Student placement decisions are made every spring with the most current information available for each student. Students who do not automatically qualify for advanced math placement will be evaluated on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

- Advanced rating (5) on the most recent State Achievement Assessments
- A “B” or higher for each of the first three grading periods
- 91 or higher National Percentile Rank (NPR) on the Math Total of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills
- 91 percentile or higher Age Percentile Rank (APR) Composite Score on the Cognitive Abilities Test
- 80 or higher on a district-administered Algebra Placement Test for placement into Algebra I, if the student has not attended Fairborn City Schools in grades 6 and/or 7.
- A strong teacher placement recommendation based on the student’s reasoning skills, classroom-based assessments, and organization and study/work habits