

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade Seven Students:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the process and criteria that will be used to determine your child's eighth grade math placement. No single factor determines placement, but rather a combination of national, state and local assessments, student achievement, student work habits and teacher recommendation are considered. This blend of factors provides us with a balanced profile of your child's mathematical abilities. We will compare your child's profile with the placement criteria, which were based upon the profiles of students who were successful in accelerated and honors level courses in the past.

There are two eighth grade math courses: Grade 8 Mathematics and 8th Grade Algebra I. The Grade 8 Mathematics course includes the entire eighth grade Common Core State Standards. The 8th Grade Algebra I course includes approximately one-third of the Grade 8 Mathematics course and the entire Algebra I Massachusetts State Standards.

Criteria used for determining eighth grade math placement into the 8th Grade Algebra I course is as follows:

Students (currently in the 7th Grade Accelerated course) who meet all of the following criteria are automatically recommended for the 8th Grade Algebra I course.

1. Score of at least 532 (532-560) on the 2017 Spring MCAS
2. Score of at least 87% on district-created grade 7 math benchmark, administered in December 2017
3. Score of at least 87% on district-created grade 7 math benchmark, administered in March 2018
4. Are in the 85th Percentile Rank or above on two of the three scores in the Renaissance tests.
The Renaissance tests are administered in
 - a. September 2017
 - b. December 2017
 - c. March 2018
5. Year-to-date grade of at least 90% at the end of May 2018
6. As well as an overall assessment score average of at least 87% on the above six data points
7. Teacher recommendation, achievement and work habits during grade 7.

Students (currently in the 7th Grade Accelerated course) who meet all of the following criteria can override into the 8th Grade Algebra I course with parent approval and completion of an override form.

1. Score of at least 524 on the 2017 Spring MCAS
2. Score of at least 87% on district-created grade 7 math benchmark, administered in December 2017
3. Score of at least 87% on district-created grade 7 math benchmark, administered in March 2018
4. Are in the 85th Percentile Rank or above on two of the three scores in the Renaissance tests.
The Renaissance tests are administered in
 - a. September 2017
 - b. December 2017
 - c. March 2018
5. Year-to-date grade of at least 87% at the end of May 2018

6. As well as an overall assessment score average of at least 84% on the above six data points
7. Teacher recommendation, achievement and work habits during grade 7.

Students (currently in the Grade 7 Mathematics course) who meet all of the following criteria are automatically recommended for the 8th Grade Algebra I course.

1. Score of at least 524 on the 2017 Spring MCAS
2. Score of at least 92% on district-created grade 7 math benchmark, administered in December 2017
3. Score of at least 92% on district-created grade 7 math benchmark, administered in March 2018
4. Are in the 85th Percentile Rank or above on two of the three scores in the Renaissance tests. The Renaissance tests are administered in
 - a. September 2017
 - b. December 2017
 - c. March 2018
5. Year-to-date grade of at least 92% at the end of May 2018
6. As well as an overall assessment score average of at least 88% on the above six data points
7. Teacher recommendation, achievement and work habits during grade 7.

Using the “Standard Tests” tab in iPass, you will be able to access the results of each of the assessments listed above shortly after the examinations are administered and scored. If you are having trouble accessing iPass, please email iparenthelp@natickps.org. Our goal is to keep you and your child fully informed. As your child’s seventh grade year progresses, his/her eighth grade math placement will be understood as the logical outcome of data driven decision-making.

At the beginning of June 2018, math teachers and administrators will review the criteria noted above to determine your child’s eighth grade math placement. You will then be notified of this assignment. Following that notification, we will hold a the middle school math placement night at one of the middle schools (date to be determined) where we will review the placement process and offer you the opportunity to have your questions answered. Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the Mathematics Department Head at your school.

Sincerely,

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Head

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