

# NEWS

## Mathematics at the Middle and High School

We are in our second year of implementing our new Math curriculum materials at both the Middle and High Schools which we started implementing during the 20-21 school year. This year, we added brand new textbooks for Pre-Calculus.

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### Middle School Math

The Middle school department welcomes one new math teacher this year: ***Katherine Ann Chapman***

New additions to our Math pathway include: grade 7 students who are demonstrate mastery beyond grade 7 math (based on multiple data points such as i-ready and RICAS) are invited to take grade 8 math, grade 8 students who demonstrate Algebra 1 readiness (again with multiple data points) are invited to take Algebra 1 in grade 8. Honor modules are offered at the middle school (starting in grade 7) for all students. In addition, we have an Enrichment block where students can access personalized instruction either with an interventionist, or facilitated with a teacher/i-ready personalized path.

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### High School Math

The high school math department welcomes 2 new teachers this year - ***Ms. Baylee DiMarco*** who teaches Algebra 1 and Geometry, and ***Ms. Maria McKeehan***, who is our new math interventionist, who will be working closely with our freshman students.

An exciting change this year is having a group of middle school students come to the high school for their Algebra 1 course. Algebra 1 is the most important foundational math course and as such we are making a few changes to the enrollment, pacing and content, including an opportunity for all students to challenge themselves above and beyond the traditional curriculum. Since the high school does not offer Algebra 1 as an honors course, this year we are piloting "honors modules", in-depth projects that allow students to explore and investigate a particular topic deeply. If students are successful, they have the potential to earn honors credit for the course. Algebra 1 parents should look for a letter in the next few weeks detailing this exciting new initiative.

We have also created a new optional Pathway, effective fall 2022. This pathway has 2 new combined courses - one is offered at the end of the freshman year and combines Geometry and Algebra 2 into one accelerated course, and the other is offered at the end of the junior year and combines Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus into one course. Both of these combined courses will allow students to reach Calculus by the time they reach their senior year without the need to double up on courses. We are really excited about these 2 new courses, and have spent many months using data to help us make this curricular decision. The math department is in the process of creating and refining the topics and materials for these courses, and we look forward to next fall when we will pilot the first course.