Warren Township School District
Middle School Math Placement
Parent Guidelines

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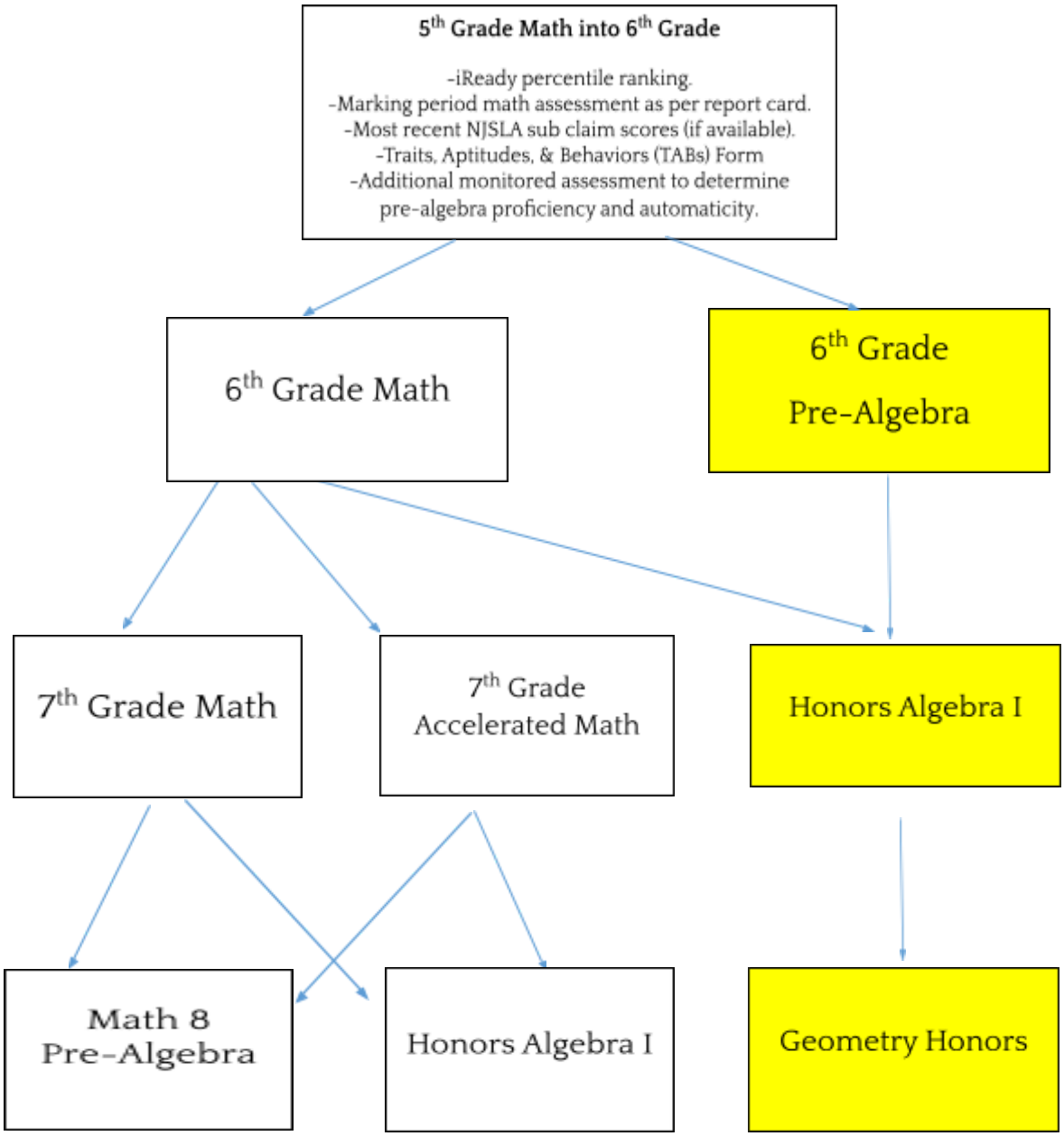
I. Overview of the Advanced Math Program

Many Warren Middle School students excel in mathematics and demonstrate mastery of advanced skills and the common core state standards. The Warren School District provides a myriad of enrichment and advanced math opportunities including math contests and competitions, Continental Math League, Johns Hopkins Talent Search through the Center for Talented Youth, math compacting, high math placements and advanced math tracking including Algebra and Geometry Honors. The advanced math program currently in place at the middle school is offered to the incoming 6th graders. This advanced math program offers a Pre-Algebra class which is available to incoming 6th graders who meet the criteria for acceptance. Subsequent advanced math classes including Algebra (7th grade) and Geometry Honors (8th grade) are taught in the middle school. Our advanced math program is geared to meet the needs of the most advanced mathematics students in the middle school.

II. Math Course Sequence

Chart shows Mathematics course sequence from 6th to 8th grade.



Click here for Watchung Hills Regional High School Math Placement information.

III. New Jersey State Learning Standards for Mathematics ~ Grade 6

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Standards & Domains

Ratios and Proportional Relationships

• Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.

The Number System

• Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.

• Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.

• Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.

Expressions and Equations

• Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.

• Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.

• Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

Geometry

• Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.

Statistics and Probability

• Develop understanding of statistical variability.

• Summarize and describe distributions.

Sources:

New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Mathematics Homepage

New Jersey Student Learning Standards

Additional support can be found at: http://www.ixl.com/standards/new-jersey/math/grade-6

IV. The “Advanced Math Student” Characteristics Sheet

The Advanced Mathematics Student Demonstrates the Ability to:

- Display mathematical thinking and have a keen awareness of quantitative information in the world around them.
- Think logically and symbolically about quantitative, spatial, and abstract relationships.
- Perceive, visualize, and generalize numeric and non-numeric patterns and relationships.
- Reason analytically, deductively, and inductively.
- Reverse reasoning processes and switch methods in a flexible yet systematic manner.
- Work, communicate, and justify mathematical concepts in creative and intuitive ways, both verbally and in writing.
- Transfer learning to novel situations.
- Formulate probing mathematical questions that extend or apply concepts.
- Persist in their search for solutions to complex, "messy," or "ill-defined" tasks.
- Organize information and data in a variety of ways and to disregard irrelevant data.
- Grasp mathematical concepts and strategies quickly, with good retention, and to relate mathematical concepts within and across content areas and real-life situations.
- Solve problems with multiple and/or alternative solutions.
- Use mathematics with self-assurance.
- Take risks with mathematical concepts and strategies.
- Apply estimation and mental computation strategies.

V. 5th to 6th Grade Math Placement Procedure

iReady

All grade 5 students participated in a district benchmark adaptive assessment called iReady. iReady results are disaggregated into performance percentiles. This information is used with the criteria outlined below to inform placements. Students will be recommended for one of two (**2**) placement options

Grade 6 Math Placement

6th Grade Mathematics **Pre-Algebra**

Pre-Algebra Evaluation (There is no waiver option for this program)
Students met specific criteria in each matrix area outlined below:

- iReady percentile ranking
- Marking period math assessment as per report card
- Most recent NJSLA sub claim scores (if available)
- Traits, Aptitudes, & Behaviors (TABs) Form completed by math teacher
- Additional monitored assessment to determine pre-algebra proficiency and automaticity

All students identified for pre-algebra will be required to participate in a mathematics summer bridge program. This five week asynchronous program has been developed to support student transition to the advanced mathematics program. The work will be monitored by a highly qualified mathematics teacher. During the summer, students will be required to participate in at least three face to face meetings with the teacher to monitor student progress, address any questions, and provide feedback.

There are no parent waivers permitted with this option and grades from private advanced summer math courses will not be accepted for pre-algebra consideration.

VI. 6th to 7th Grade Math Placement Procedure

iReady

All grade 6 students participated in a district benchmark assessment called iReady. iReady results are disaggregated into performance percentiles. This information is used with the criteria outlined below to inform placement.

Grade 7 Math Placements

Students will be placed in one of three grade 7 math placements. This decision is based on the 6th grade iReady results, report card grades, most recent NJSLA performance, and teacher recommendation. The three grade 7 courses are:

Mathematics 7 **Accelerated Math 7** **Algebra**

Algebra Evaluation (There is no waiver option for this program)

Students met specific criteria in each matrix area outlined below:

- iReady Percentile ranking
- Marking period numerical math grade as per report card
- Most recent NJSLA sub claim scores
- Traits, Aptitudes, & Behaviors (TABs) Form completed by math teacher
- Additional monitored assessment to determine pre-algebra proficiency and automaticity

All students identified for transition from grade 6 general math to Algebra will be required to participate in a mathematics summer bridge program. This five week asynchronous program has been developed to support student transition to the advanced mathematics program. The work will be monitored by a highly qualified mathematics teacher. During the summer, students will be required to participate in at least three face to face meetings with the teacher to monitor student progress, address any questions, and provide feedback.

There are no parent waivers permitted with the Algebra option and grades from private advanced summer math courses will not be accepted for consideration.

VII. 7th to 8th Grade Math Placement Procedure

iReady

All grade 7 students participated in a district benchmark assessment called iReady. iReady results are disaggregated into performance percentiles. This information is used with the criteria outlined below to inform placement.

Grade 8 Math Placements

Students will be placed in one of three grade 8 math placements. This decision is based on the 7th grade iReady results, report card grades, most recent NJSLA performance, and teacher recommendation. The three grade 8 courses are:

Mathematics 8 **Algebra** **Geometry**

Algebra Evaluation

Students met specific criteria in each matrix area outlined below:

- iReady Percentile ranking
- Algebra readiness exam
- Marking period numerical math grade as per report card
- Most recent NJSLA sub claim scores
- Traits, Aptitudes, & Behaviors (TABs) Form completed by math teacher

There are no parent waivers permitted with the Geometry option and grades from private advanced summer math courses will not be accepted for consideration.

An Algebra waiver request will only be entertained if a student has demonstrated proficiency in Algebra readiness skills at the end of the summer. This will be determined through an administration of a second Algebra readiness exam in August.