

Middle School Math Guidelines for Opting Up 2019-2020

For a number of years SPS students have had the option of opting into a math class that is one course beyond the next in sequence. Below are some of the skills and knowledge that a student should have mastered **before** opting in to an above grade-level course. Please note: Middle Schools have authority to make final registration decisions based on other information and space available in specific courses.

Course	Prerequisite skills and knowledge
Math 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluently add, subtract, multiply and divide positive fractions and multi-digit decimals; calculate percent. • Understand negative number values and the absolute value of a number • Understand how letters (variables) are used to represent numbers in a variety of situations • Solve one variable equations and inequalities • Use multiplication and division reasoning to solve real-world ratio and rate problems <p>Note: Any student whose report card reflects he or she was taught Grade 6 Math standards in 5th grade will automatically be enrolled in Math 7.</p>
Math 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluently add, subtract, multiply and divide both positive and negative fractions, multi-digit decimals and percent • Solve mathematical and real-world problems using multi-step expressions, equations and inequalities that include variables • Solve and understand problems involving proportional relationships and percent, including applications with similar geometric figures, discounts and tips • Generate equivalent algebraic expressions <p>Note: Any student whose report card reflects he or she was taught Grade 7 Math standards in 5th grade will automatically be enrolled in Math 8.</p>
Algebra 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know and apply the properties of integer exponents • Solve equations with one variable and pairs of equations with two variables • Compare graphs, equations, tables, and verbal descriptions of functions • Use graphs, equations and tables to represent real-world situations and solve problems • Understand congruence and similarity; fluently solve problems applying this understanding • Understand, use and apply the Pythagorean theorem

Families are encouraged to be thoughtful about their math enrollment decisions. Students and parents/guardians should carefully consider a student's math acuity, confidence, work ethic and strength of foundational mathematics skills before enrolling in an accelerated math pathway.

Note: Students interested in "opting up" a grade level to Math 7, Math 8, or Algebra 1 should complete a Seattle Public Schools Mathematics Course Placement Contract during the course registration process in April. This document can be found on the SPS Website Math page.