

## **FAQ #1: Why are rising 7th graders encouraged to take the Bridge to Math 1 course before taking NC Math 1 in 7th grade?**

In order to take a high school math course in 7th grade, 6th grade students must gain strong foundational knowledge of the three years of middle school math content in one year. The standards and content of middle school math have become increasingly rigorous in the past few years as many algebra and geometry concepts and skills that used to be taught in high school have been pushed down to middle school courses. The summer course (Bridge to NC Math 1) is needed in order to finish the teaching and learning of these concepts and skills that have been compacted into the one sixth-grade year.

## **FAQ #2: How should I decide which 6th grade math course is best for my student?**

There are three options for 6th graders.

**Math 6** is the on-grade-level math course and thus appropriate for all sixth grade students. The concepts and skills in Math 6 are imperative for future success in mathematics as it includes early proportional reasoning, an introduction to solving equations, and much more!

**Accelerated 6** and **AIMM** courses both cover 100% of the on-grade-level content *plus* an additional 60% of the seventh-grade content. While both of these courses cover the same amount of content, students enrolled in AIMM will have opportunities to dig deeper into the content through embedded enrichment and end-of-unit performance tasks. Please note that students enrolled in Accelerated 6 or AIMM will be required to master math content at a much quicker pace.

Families should carefully consider these three options using the following guidance:

- [MS Math Course Options Guidelines](#)
  - Further descriptions of each course
  - Criteria from past assessments based on past performance
- [Pathways Options Grades 6-12 Chart](#)
  - Shows the trajectory of math courses throughout middle and high school based on 6th grade options.

## **FAQ #3: How should I decide which 7th grade math course is best for my student?**

There are three options for 7th graders.

**Math 7** is the on-grade-level math course and thus appropriate for all 7th grade students. Math 7 is the natural progression for students who took Math 6 in the previous year.

**Accelerated 7** is the natural progression for Accelerated 6 or AIMM students as it covers the remaining 40% of 7th grade content and 100% of the eighth grade content. *The pairing of Accelerated 6 and Accelerated 7 gives accelerated students the time to master all middle school content before taking NC Math 1 (the first high school math course) during their 8th grade year.* Accelerated 7 students will take

the 7th Grade Math End-of-Grade assessment at the end of the year that assesses their understanding of seventh grade math content.

**NC Math 1** is also available for Accelerated 6 or AIMM students wishing to skip Accelerated 7. A summer Bridge to Math 1 course offered between 6th and 7th grade is recommended in order to be prepared to take NC Math 1 in 7th grade. This summer Bridge to Math 1 course will expose students to the prerequisite 8th grade standards necessary for success in NC Math 1. *Students taking NC Math 1 during 7th grade must take two final exams.* They will take the NC Math 1 End-of-Course Exam and will also be responsible for taking the 7th Grade Math End-of-Grade assessment that assesses their understanding of seventh grade math content.

Families should carefully consider these three options using the following guidance:

- [MS Math Course Options Guidelines](#)
- [Pathways Options Grades 6-12 Chart](#)

## **FAQ #4: How should I decide which 8th grade math course is best for my student?**

There are three options of 8th graders.

**Math 8** is the on-grade-level math course and the natural progression for students who took Math 7 in the previous year. Math 8 students will take the 8th Grade Math End-of-Grade assessment at the end of the year that assesses their understanding of eighth grade math content.

**NC Math 1** is the natural progression for students who took Accelerated 7 in the previous year. Students who take Accelerated 6 and then Accelerated 7 have completed all middle school math content and are thus ready to take on NC Math 1 in eighth grade. Students in 8th grade who take NC Math 1 **only** take the NC Math 1 End-of-Course Exam at the end of the year.

**NC Math 2** is available for eighth graders and students who passed NC Math 1 in seventh grade **MUST** take NC Math 2 in eighth grade per our state's Department of Public Instruction. Students in 8th grade who take NC Math 2 **only** take the district NC Math 2 Final Exam at the end of the year.

Families should carefully consider these three options using the following guidance:

- [MS Math Course Options Guidelines](#)
- [Pathways Options Grades 6-12 Chart](#)

# Middle School Math Frequently Asked Questions



## ***FAQ #5: Which middle school math courses are considered advanced math courses?***

The following courses are all considered advanced math courses at the middle school level:

Accelerated 6

AIMM

Accelerated 7

NC Math 1 (high school honors level course)

NC Math 2 (high school honors level course)

See the [MS Math Course Options Guidelines](#) and above questions for more descriptions around these courses.

## ***FAQ #6: What happens if my middle school student takes a high school math course but doesn't feel confident at the end?***

Per our state's Department of Public Instruction, students who pass NC Math 1 or 2 in middle school with a D or higher are **NOT** allowed to retake the course. This means that a student must advance to the next course in the high school mathematics sequence as long as they pass with a D.

## ***FAQ #7: If my student decides to take NC Math 1 (the first HS math course) in 8th grade, will they still be able to take higher level mathematics in high school?***

Absolutely. Please reference the [Pathway Options Grades 6-12 chart](#) to view the multiple pathways available for your student. Rows C, D, E, and I all show examples of options for students who take NC Math 1 during their 8th grade year.

## ***FAQ #8: If my student decides to wait until high school to start their high school math courses, will they still be able to take higher level mathematics in high school?***

Absolutely, however not as many as those taking it in 8th grade. Please reference this [Pathway Options Grades 6-12 chart](#) to view the multiple pathways available for your student. Rows A, B, G, and H all show examples of options for students who focus on middle school mathematics during middle school and enroll in their first HS math course during their first year of high school.

## ***FAQ #9: Is NC Math 1 and NC Math 2 considered honors when taken in middle school?***

Students do not receive GPA points for NC Math 1 and/or NC Math 2 if they take them in middle school. Only courses taken in grades 9-12 earn GPA points. However, the course work expected of students who are taking NC Math 1 and/or NC Math 2 in middle school is honors level work. This means that the course load for students will be honors level work, but this will not be reflected in their GPA. This is also true for any accelerated options including Accelerated 6, AIMM, and Accelerated 7.