

Algebra Placement Policy for seventh graders

Mrs. Yen

Dear Parent and student,

Your seventh grade student has been enrolled in Algebra. This placement was based on many factors, primarily class placement in sixth grade, teacher recommendation and observations over the course of the year, performance (i.e. grades) in class, school placement tests, and possibly a district challenge test. Our goal in the math department is to use multiple measures to best match your child with a class where they will be challenged and where they will be successful. Experience over many years has shown that the placement of the overwhelming majority of students has been made appropriately.

Algebra is a challenging, fast-paced class. Successful students must complete on average 30-45 minutes of homework daily, learning and understanding the concepts well enough to be ready for a new lesson the following day. In addition, they must be able to demonstrate this understanding by earning A's or high B's on tests and quizzes. Algebra requires abstract thinking, which is just developing in many students at this age. Algebra is the foundation class for all further math and science classes in high school, and thus, it is of utmost importance that students achieve a high level of mastery and understanding in algebra before moving on to other math courses.

Since your student is enrolled in this class a year earlier than is typical, we in the math department must be especially watchful to ensure that this continues to be the best placement. Seventh grade algebra students who earn grades below a middle B demonstrate to us that, although they are very capable academically, they are not quite ready to be successful in an accelerated eighth grade class. Thus, we will recommend that student's placement decision be revisited if their grade falls below a high B early in the year. In addition, a student who does not continue to demonstrate a high level of algebra mastery during the course of the year (A's and high B's) may be asked to repeat algebra as an eighth grader.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding this policy, please contact me or your child's math teacher.

Sincerely,
Susan Holtzapple, math department chair

(Cut along the dashed line and return the bottom part to Mrs. Yen)

(For 7th grade Algebra parents)

Mrs. Yen

I have read the placement policy above, and understand that my child may be moved or asked to repeat algebra if their grade falls below a middle B. _____ (initial), Parent of
