

## SDUHSD Middle School Math Course Selection Philosophy and Policy

Most students will be enrolled in their grade level math course. Some students may elect to access our honors level math courses. Other students will be recommended for a below grade level math course. Below grade level math courses incorporate individualized computer based programs.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be given a math test to help ensure parents select the correct math class for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We will also use 5<sup>th</sup> grade STAR Math scores and 1<sup>st</sup> semester / trimester 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom Math performance as other indicators for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math course selection.

Using the above criteria, SDUHSD will **recommend** a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math course for each student. SDUHSD strongly recommends that students meet two out of the three criteria listed below to enroll in Honors Pre-Algebra as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader:

1. 34/45 on "Math Diagnostic Testing and Placement Algebra 1 Readiness Test"
2. Advanced 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math STAR score
3. "B" or better in 1<sup>st</sup> semester/2<sup>nd</sup> trimester 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math

Research and history show this criteria is a successful indicator to help students select the correct 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math course. You will receive a letter from your son or daughter's middle school with your child's 7<sup>th</sup> grade math course recommendation. Please use this information to make a thoughtful and informed math course selection.

Honors Algebra 1 for 7<sup>th</sup> graders is considered a "grade skip". In order for 7<sup>th</sup> graders to enroll in this course, they must meet the following criteria. No exceptions. Honors Algebra 1 for 7<sup>th</sup> graders is the only course selection district wide in which parents / students are **NOT** permitted to enroll without meeting the criteria.

A student must meet both criteria listed below to be eligible to enroll in Honors Algebra 1 as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader:

1. 75% or better on the SDUHSD Honors Algebra 1 Readiness Test
2. Advanced 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math STAR score

SDUHSD Board Policy allows for a student to drop or change math course levels up to the end of the fourth week of school. It is important that students are placed carefully. Please follow our recommendations for math placement. Transferring Math levels, even during the first four weeks is difficult for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. After four weeks, students are not allowed to transfer math levels, per SDUHSD Board Policy.

# Middle School Math Courses

## 2011-12

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

| Course                        | For Students   | Instructional Materials  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Pre-Algebra Essentials</b> | Below grade level<br>Individualized remedial program | Prealgebra, Prentice Hall,<br>with individualized computer<br>based program. |
| <b>* Pre-Algebra</b>          | Standard 7 <sup>th</sup> Math (grade level)          | Prealgebra, Prentice Hall  |
| <b>Honors Pre-Algebra</b>     | Advanced 7 <sup>th</sup> Math                        | Mathematics, Structure &<br>Method, McDougal Littell                         |
| <b>** Honors Algebra 1</b>    | Grade ahead Math for 7 <sup>th</sup> graders         | Algebra 1, Houghton Mifflin  |

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

| Course                     | For Students  | Instructional Materials  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Algebra 1A</b>          | Part 1 of a 2-year, individualized<br>Algebra 1 sequence for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders.<br>Part 2 of the 2-year Algebra 1<br>course is taken as a 9 <sup>th</sup> grader. | Algebra 1, Prentice Hall with<br>individualized computer based<br>program. |
| <b>* Algebra 1</b>         | Standard 8 <sup>th</sup> Math (grade level)   | Algebra 1, Prentice Hall   |
| <b>Honors Algebra 1</b>    | Advanced 8 <sup>th</sup> Math   | Algebra 1, Houghton Mifflin  |
| <b>*** Honors Geometry</b> | Grade ahead Math for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders  | College Geometry, Prentice Hall  |

\* = Grade Level Course

\*\* = 7<sup>th</sup> graders must meet both criteria in order to take Honors Algebra 1:

1. 75% or better on the SDUHSD Honors Algebra 1 Readiness Test
2. Advanced 5<sup>th</sup> Grade math STAR score

\*\*\* = 8<sup>th</sup> graders must successfully complete Honors Algebra 1 to enroll in Honors Geometry

Revised January, 2011

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade SDUHSD Math Placement 2011-12

## Course

## Criteria / Description

### Pre-Algebra Essentials

A below grade level remedial individualized computer based program is part of this course.

Low grades and Far Below Basic and Below Basic CST scores will be evaluated by our staff for placement recommendations.

### Pre-Algebra

Grade Level Course

### Honors Pre-Algebra

Grade Level Course (Advanced Level)  
Recommend 2 out of 3:

1. 34/45 on "Math Diagnostic Testing and Placement Algebra 1 Readiness Exam"
2. Advanced math score on 5<sup>th</sup> grade CST
3. "B" or better in 1<sup>st</sup> semester/2<sup>nd</sup> trimester 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math

### \* Honors Algebra 1

Honors Algebra 1 is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors course, open to high performing 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Students must meet both the following criteria to be eligible for this course in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. No exceptions.

- \* 1. 75% or better on SDUHSD Honors Algebra Readiness Test.
- 2. Advanced on 5<sup>th</sup> grade math STAR score.

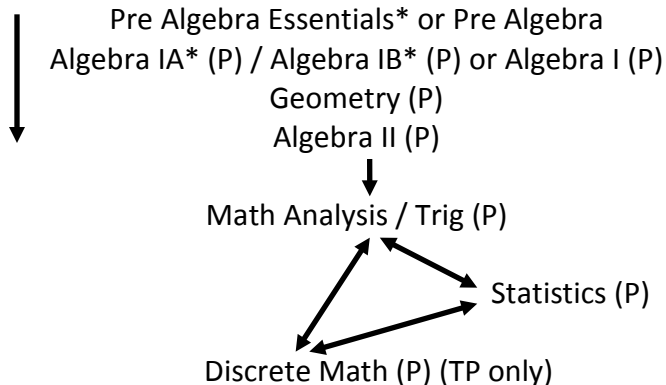
\* Current 6<sup>th</sup> graders may take the SDUHSD Honors Algebra Readiness Test at any of the following places, regardless of the middle school they plan to attend. Results will be made available to you no later than May 31, 2011. Students may only take this test one time.

# S.D.U.H.S.D.

## 2011-12 MATH PATHWAY OPTIONS

### Grades 7 - 12

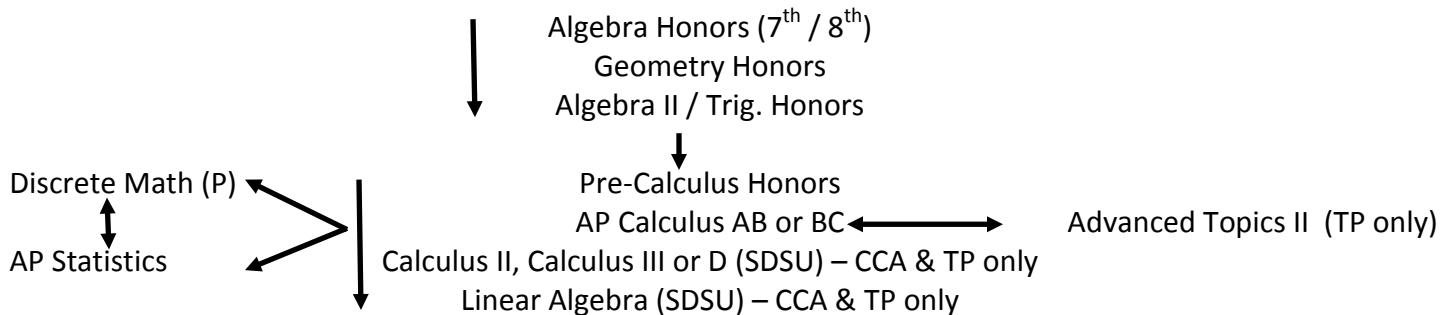
#### College-Preparatory Courses



\*Individualized program for each student

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#### Honors & AP Courses



The diagrams above show the course sequence students may follow when choosing math classes. Students are not locked into one particular path. For further details about specific course recommendations, please refer to the course profiles.

**New for 2011-12:** Algebra IB would be part 2 of a 2-year, individualized Algebra I sequence using the Online Plato Program. Part one of this course would have been completed in 8<sup>th</sup> grade as Algebra IA. Students would move from Algebra IB to Geometry (College Prep path) or elect to take non College Prep options like Business Math and online Consumer Math (new).