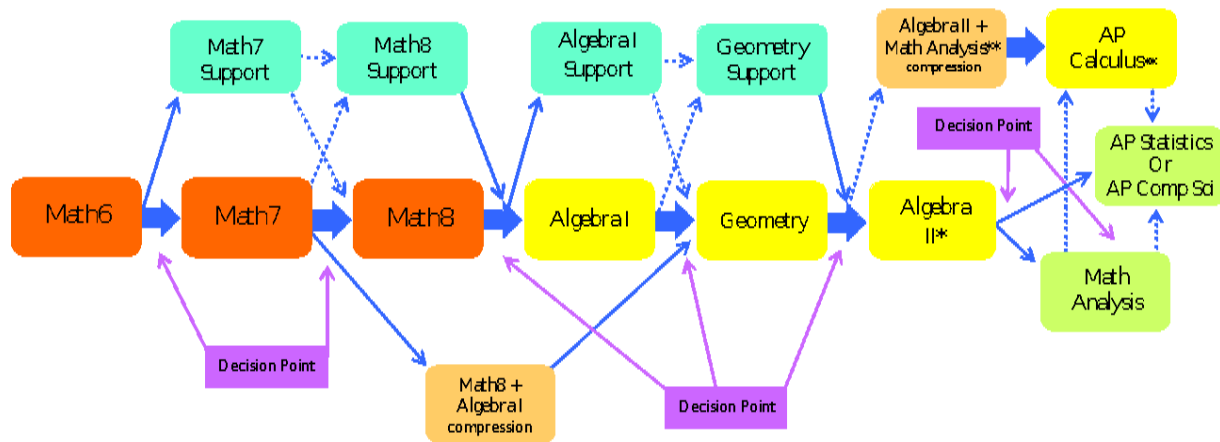


2016-17 Claremont Middle School 8th Grade Math Opportunities

The core course sequence¹ shown below was approved by the Oakland Unified School District Board of Trustees on January 15, 2014, and made effective for the 2014-15 school year.

OUSD Math Course Sequence



The sequence was developed through a partnership between math leaders in Oakland Unified School District and San Francisco Unified School District, with critical support and guidance from our Strategic Education Research Partnership colleagues Phil Daro, author of CCSS-M, and Harold Asturias, director of the Center for Mathematics Excellence & Equity at Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley.

Why a district course sequence?

To guide students and families as they make decisions about their education to ensure academic success and future opportunity in the context of CCSS-M.

To provide a coherent learning experience for all students. Analysis of past experience in OUSD revealed that students were taking disparate paths through a large number of sequences, with many students repeating courses while others skipped essential courses. As students separated into different courses, many experienced unequal access to learning and dead-end math courses in high school. New Board Policy was required to change long-held beliefs and the institutionalized decision-making processes that created these inequities.

To support teachers in developing deep pedagogical content knowledge. The magnitude of the shifts demanded by CCSS-M, and the charge to build coherent learning experiences for students, requires teachers to collaborate within and across sites around content and pedagogy. Such collaboration in service of building deep pedagogical content knowledge is supported by aligning courses and instruction to the same Scope & Sequence across the district.

¹ Board approved on Jan. 15, 2014

What is the Math 8+Algebra 1 Compression opportunity this year at Claremont Middle School?

Typically, Math 8+Algebra 1 Compression students take an intense math class every day that covers two years worth of math in one year. To provide 8th graders access to Algebra 1 standards, we are able to support the following:

- **All 8th graders will receive Math8 instruction in their current classes during the school day. Students who want to take on the challenge of learning Algebra 1 content as well will take an additional opt-in Zero Period, 3 days a week.** Because the zero period will not meet every day, students who opt-in to this opportunity should expect to work very hard both in and out of class, and can expect more homework and a fast pace in the zero period. Because the two courses will not be integrated together, sequencing throughout the year will not exactly match Math8 and some content may be experienced as more disjointed. In some cases, students may preview Math8 content in the zero period in order to access Algebra 1 content, and then will re-engage with the content with their peers in Math8 later in the year. Students who enroll in the zero period will need to be diligent about attending each class session, completing assignments on time, asking questions, and seeking additional help as needed.

What are the criteria to determine whether my student will be recommended for 9th grade Geometry?

- **OUSD has a district wide policy for determining whether students who are enrolled in the Math 8+Algebra 1 Compression course earn Algebra 1 credits and are recommended to take Geometry in 9th grade.** We use a variety of measures, including:
 - Demonstrated proficiency with course content as measured by the Math8+Algebra 1 Compression Mid-Year Exam for (which includes items from both Mid-Year Exams for the separate Math8 and Algebra 1 courses);
 - Demonstrated proficiency with course content as measured by the Math8+Algebra 1 End-of-Course Exam;
 - grades; and
 - teacher recommendation based on class assessments, in situations where scores are contradictory or inconclusive.

If a student does not meet all of the criteria, then s/he will be recommended for a 9th grade Algebra 1 placement to earn the Algebra credits required for graduation.

If my student participates in the Zero Period opportunity, how likely is it that s/he will be successful in earning Algebra 1 credit at the end of the year?

- Districtwide, about 73% of the students who were enrolled in a Math8+Algebra 1 Compression course last year successfully earned Algebra 1 credit and proceeded to Geometry in high school.
- Historically, the greatest indicator of student success is student desire and will.

What opportunities are available for my student to accelerate in high school?

- OUSD offers an Algebra 2 + Math Analysis Compression course, followed by AP Calculus in the 12th grade.
- Some high schools offer concurrent enrollment in 9th grade so that students are taking two math classes: Algebra 1 and Geometry.
- Note: If students choose not to take any acceleration options, they will still have the option of taking AP Statistics or AP Computer Science in the 12th grade.