



March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian and Grade 5 Student:

Welcome to Middle School! The following information is being provided to all District families with students entering our middle schools to assist you in the math course selection process for the 2021-2022 school year. Attached please find:

1. Course descriptions that explain the pace, content, and expectations of each course;
2. A timeline which outlines important dates; and
3. A chart which shows the course options at each grade of middle school.

We encourage students and parents/guardians to review the information together to inform your decision-making as you select a math course for next year.

Sincerely,

Curriculum & Instruction Department

Course Descriptions

The following 2 courses are offered in Grade 6:

Course	Requirements	Descriptions
Grade 6 Math	<i>This course addresses grade 6 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for math. It covers one grade level of math concepts in one year. This course prepares students for Pre-algebra as 7th graders.</i>	Sixth-grade mathematical content is focused on big ideas, such as equivalence, number sense, properties, operational reasoning, variables, and statistical thinking. Content primarily focuses on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking. The mathematical processes (problem-solving, communication, reasoning, connections and representation) continue to be essential in the learning of mathematics.

Pre-Algebra 6	<i>In addition to the above grade 6 concepts, this course includes all of the grade 7 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for math. It integrates two full grade levels of concepts in one year. This course prepares students for Algebra I (integrated with Grade 8) as 7th graders.</i>	This Pre-algebra curriculum combines foundational concepts from grade 6 and expands to include Pre-algebra 7 content. The pacing and reasoning are more rigorous than students' other classes as it prepares them for Algebra I, a grade 9 course, the following year. Exploration is focused on proportional reasoning, including problems with ratio, rate, and percent and expanding reasoning to the entire rational number system. Algebraic activities also involve solving expressions, inequalities, and linear equations. Concepts and skills are initially presented through models, and real and familiar situations, followed by problems involving algebraic representation. Students will also reason with data and geometric measurements and formulas.
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Course Selection Process & Chart

Math course selection will be in PowerSchool. Sign in to the [Parent Portal](#) using your username and password. ([Parent Portal Help](#)). From the left side Navigation column select "Forms". Scroll down until you see Math Course Selection. If you need assistance to complete the form or do not have access to the Internet, please contact your child's current school principal with your choice.

Please Note: We are not enrolling SOMSD summer programs at this time as details are still being confirmed. We are tentatively planning for July 6-July 30 on weekday mornings.

Timeline for Math Course Selection:

March 16, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle School Math Parent Information Night Online 7:00 pm. via WebEx Event: Middle School Math Parent Information Night Event address for attendees: https://somsd.webex.com/somsd/onstage/g.php?MTID=eadfd10e5dc13bc46932553d3e771eb27 Date and time: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:00 pm Event number: 129 126 7961 Event password: Numbers2021 (68623772 from phones) Dial In Number: 408-418-9388
March 26, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day to select a math course for 2021-2022

All middle school course selections provide a path to high-level high school math courses, including Calculus.

**Courses for 6th
Graders**

Gr. 6

Gr. 6
Pre-algebra

**Courses for 7th
Graders**

Gr. 7

Gr. 7
Pre-algebra

Algebra I
(Gr. 9)

**Courses for 8th
Graders**

Gr. 8
Pre-algebra

Algebra I
(Gr. 9)

Geometry
(Gr. 10)

Students must successfully
complete Algebra I before
Geometry