Dear Parent/Guardian and Grade 6 Student:

The following information is being provided to all District families with students who will be advancing to the 7th grade to assist 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 3 courses are offered in Grade 7:

Course	Requirements	Description
Grade 7 Math	*This course addresses grade 7 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for math. It covers one grade level of math concepts in one year. This course prepares students for Grade 8 Pre-algebra.*	This course focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings, informal geometric constructions, and geometric measurement; (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.
Pre-Algebra 7	*In addition to the above grade 7 concepts, this course explores select grade 8 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for math in preparation for students to take Algebra I as 8th graders.*	This Pre-algebra curriculum focuses on a wide application of grade 7 concepts and expands to some grade 8 concepts in preparation for Algebra I in Grade 8. This course emphasizes proportional reasoning for determining relationships and solving problems. It extends applications of rational and irrational numbers, geometric and data formulas, and multi-variable equations.

Algebra I	This course integrates Grade 8 and Algebra I New Jersey Student Learning Standards for math. This course fulfills the state Algebra I course requirement. Successful completion of Algebra I is a prerequisite to take Geometry as 8th graders.	Algebra 1 builds on Pre-algebra and prepares students for further study in Geometry and Algebra 2. The course focuses on foundational ideas such as equivalent forms of expressions, rational and irrational numbers, linearity and rate of change (represented in situations, tables, graphs and equations) and operational reasoning as students evaluate or simplify expressions, or solve equations. Students will also solve systems of equations, graph linear equations and inequalities, and use varied methods to interpret and represent quadratic functions.

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	● 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	● 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	Courses for 7th Graders	Courses for 8th Graders
	Gr. 7	Gr. 8 Pre-algebra
Gr. 6		
	Gr. 7 Pre-algebra	Algebra I (Gr. 9)
Gr. 6 Pre-algebra		
	Algebra I (Gr. 9) →	Geometry (Gr. 10)

Students must successfully complete Algebra I before Geometry