



William Diamond Middle School

99 Hancock Street ♦ Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

Jennifer E. Turner, *Principal*
Bayard Klimasmith, *Assistant Principal*
Elizabeth Sharp, *Assistant Principal*

Office: (781) 861-2460
Fax: (781) 274-0174

Placement for 7th grade Mathematics

Dear Parents and Guardians of 6th Graders,

Placement in mathematics courses receives a great deal of attention throughout middle school. The intent of the mathematics department is to ensure that all parents and students are informed of the criteria used to determine student placement and ensure that each student is appropriately placed; challenged and successful. Throughout the year, students take several district-developed grade-wide assessments, which, along with teacher recommendations, are used to determine placement for the following year. The course recommendations and selection process will take place in May.

There are 2 courses offered in Grade 7:

Grade 7 Mathematics Course # 271

This is a grade level course and students will learn all skills/concepts aligned with the Massachusetts Frameworks incorporating the Common Core for Grade 7 and some Grade 8 Standards.

Students who fully meet the goals of this course will enroll in Grade 8 Math, Math 1, or Math 1 Honors.

Grade 7 Honors Mathematics Course # 272

This course is designed to meet the needs of learners who have thoroughly mastered all the concepts and skills from 6th grade and who thrive in an independent learning environment. Students in this course will engage in the same material as that of the Grade 7 Mathematics course in addition to other topics based on students' readiness. Such supplemental topics may include bases, modular arithmetic, combinatorics, and selected lessons in number theory. Students are expected to solve unfamiliar problems with minimal guidance and will progress at a very fast pace with greater emphasis on problem solving and exploration.

Students who fully meet the goals of this course will enroll in Math 1, or Math 1 Honors.

The following common assessments are taken into consideration for placement:

MCAS

6th grade Unit Assessment Scores

Extension Questions on unit tests

Proficiency Honors Test

Computational Skills Assessment

Please contact me with any further questions or concerns. We will be communicating more about the course selection and placement process in the spring.

Sincerely,

Donna Sorila
Middle School Mathematics Department Head
dsorila@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us