

Overview of Ninth-Grade Math Experiences at Clayton High School

The School District of Clayton's mathematics program challenges students to think deeply, construct arguments, and work together to solve problems and generalize results. Clayton High School's math department aims to provide all students with a mathematical experience that will equip them with the opportunity to achieve at a level that challenges them while allowing them the confidence to independently be successful in mathematics.

Ninth-grade students at Clayton High School are typically enrolled in Math Essentials, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, CP Algebra 1, or Honors Geometry. Alternative placements are based on decisions made by a student's Individualized Education Plan or Content Acceleration team.

Your child's data profile and classroom performance are used to determine the best math placement for your child. This data profile includes your child's longitudinal performance on District and classroom assessments, as well as classroom performance observations. Teachers work in partnership with the Wydown math subject manager, the CHS math department chairperson, and the District math curriculum coordinator to recommend the math class in which they can make the most growth and be the most successful. Math placement recommendations are shared during the second semester of eighth grade.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between the various courses?

- **Math Essentials** is designed to build a solid foundation of everyday math skills for students who have an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and are graduating upon meeting IEP goals as determined by their IEPs. Math Essentials provides direct instruction in skills for real-world environments, along with classroom enrichment activities to support life skills and transitional goals. *This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.
- **Pre-Algebra** is designed to provide students with a secure and deep understanding of foundational skills and essential learning necessary for Algebra 1. Reteaching and practice on prerequisite skills are built into the lesson design. *This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.
- **Algebra 1** is designed for students who will benefit from the modified pace and depth of the Algebra 1 curriculum.
- **CP Algebra 1** is the course most appropriate for students with secure pre-algebra and emerging algebra skills. A review of prerequisite knowledge is incorporated through warm-up activities, preparing students to build upon their previous understanding of middle school

concepts. Algebra 1 is one of the most foundational classes in the secondary math progression.

- CP Algebra 1 - AMPED (Algebra 1 in Manufacturing Processes, Entrepreneurship, and Design) is designed to provide students with a contextualized CP Algebra 1 learning experience. This two-block period experience allows students to earn one credit for math and one credit for Career & Technical Education (CTE). In addition to learning all Algebra 1 standards, students will design, create, and sell merchandise for the CHS school store. A collaborative, hands-on, entrepreneurial spirit is essential for success in this course.
- Honors Geometry is designed to be an intervention to meet the specialized needs of students who have demonstrated mastery of all Algebra 1 standards. Students recommended from this course require faster-paced instruction and opportunities to explore the interrelatedness of mathematical concepts in order to ensure continued growth and engagement. *Successful completion of Honors Algebra 1 is required for enrollment in this course.

If a student does not take Honors Geometry in ninth grade, can they access Calculus or any AP courses in the future?

Yes, students who start ninth grade in CP Algebra 1 will take AP PreCalc AB their senior year. Additionally, enrollment in AP Statistics at CHS is not exclusively reserved for students in honors mathematics and is highly recommended to be taken at some point during a student's junior or senior year.

Lastly, a built-in path for acceleration has been designed for students who seek to end their high school math experience in AP Calculus AB. This can be accomplished by taking both CP Geometry and CP Algebra 2 during sophomore year or by earning Geometry credit through summer experiences prior to their junior year.

You can find more information regarding the Secondary Mathematics course progressions on the District Website at <https://www.claytonschools.net/curriculum-resources/stem> or in the [CHS Program of Studies](#).