



# SHADY SIDE

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## A C A D E M Y

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
500 Squaw Run Road East  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412-968-3100

May 1, 2019

Dear Parents of Incoming students to Shady Side Academy Middle School:

Parents and students often wonder how students are placed into math classes at Shady Side Academy Middle School. We offer two sequences of mathematics courses. Most students will take Grade 6 Math, followed by Form I\* Pre-Algebra and Form II\* Algebra 1. For students who are ready to pursue a more advanced program, we offer Pre-Algebra (6), followed by Form I Algebra 1 and Form II Geometry. Below you will find the math placement procedure for Grade 6 through Form II mathematics courses including Pre-Algebra (6), Form I Algebra 1, and Form II Geometry. I hope that by providing you with this information, you will understand the expectations and criteria that we use for each math course at the Middle School.

Please remember that the goal of the Middle School Math Department is to do what is right for each child in terms of his or her readiness to meet certain curricular challenges or to understand abstract mathematical concepts, and that hastening through a curriculum is not necessarily the best thing for any child. If you have any questions, please email me at [jcurry@shadysideacademy.org](mailto:jcurry@shadysideacademy.org).

Sincerely,

*John R. Curry*

John R. Curry  
Assistant Head of Middle School  
Middle School Director of Studies

\*Form I refers to Grade 7 and Form II refers to Grade 8—an old SSA tradition!

## **Placement Procedure for Middle School Math**

For a fifth grade student to take Pre-Algebra (6) during his or her sixth grade year, he or she must take a placement test. In order to qualify to take the placement test, the student must attain both criteria described below:

1. A cumulative grade for the year of at least 93% in fifth grade math.
2. At least a 7<sup>th</sup> stanine ranking in both the Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics Achievement portions of either the ERBs or ISEE.

The placement test is given in June at the Middle School. You will be notified of that test date if your child's cumulative grade for the year and ERB/ISEE scores meet the criteria to take the placement test. After the placement test is scored, you will be notified as to whether your child will take Grade 6 Mathematics or Pre-Algebra (6) in the fall.

## **Placement Criteria for Form I Algebra 1**

Students who successfully complete Pre-Algebra (6) automatically qualify to take Form I Algebra 1. For a Grade 6 Math student to be recommended to take Algebra 1 during his or her Form I year, he or she must attain all three criteria described below:

### For students currently attending Shady Side Academy Middle School

1. ERB CTP IV: At least a 7<sup>th</sup> stanine ranking in both Quantitative Reasoning and Math 1 & 2 according to Independent School norms.
2. A score of at least 93% on the final exam in sixth grade math.
3. A cumulative grade for the year of at least 93% in sixth grade math.

### For students coming into Shady Side Academy Middle School

1. ISEE: At least a 7<sup>th</sup> stanine ranking in both Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics Achievement according to Independent School norms.
2. A qualifying score on the Algebra 1 Placement test.
3. A cumulative grade for the year of at least 93% or an 'A' in sixth grade math.

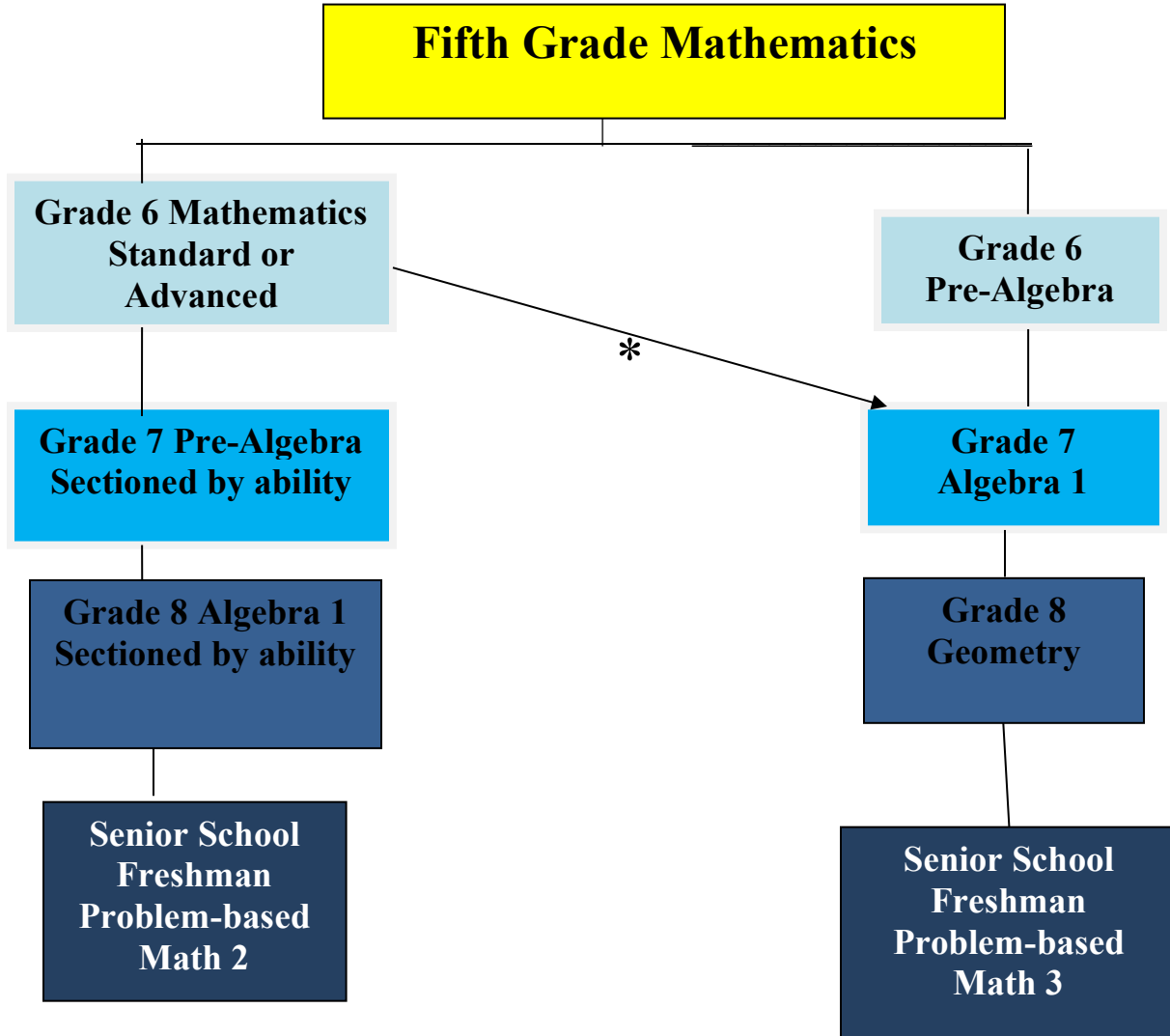
## **Placement into Form II Math Courses**

The student who has completed Form I Algebra 1 at the Middle School will then take Form II Geometry. The student who has completed Form I Pre-Algebra at the Middle School will then take Form II Algebra 1.

Students entering the Middle School in Form II must meet the ISEE and year-end grade criteria above in order to take the placement test for Form II Geometry. A score of 85% or better on this test is needed to place into Form II Geometry.

Note: Shady Side Academy Middle School does not permit students to advance in math by taking summer courses at Shady Side Academy or at any other school.

**Shady Side Academy Middle School  
Mathematics Course Options**



\*If students meet the criteria listed on page 2, they can move from Grade 6 mathematics to Algebra 1 for Grade 7.