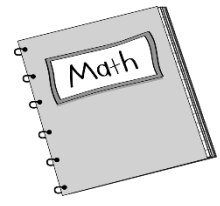




Math Department FAQ



1. Q: What math class should I take?

A: In general, you should take Algebra 1. That's the foundation for everything! If you are in honors math now, you should probably take Honors Geometry. If you have doubts, talk to your 8th grade teacher. They usually know best!

2. Q: If I take _____ as a freshman, where do I end up?

A: Please see the course map to check out how all of our courses progress. There are many routes you can take, including ones with college credit available. The sequence is important though, because math builds on itself. If you want to stray from the paths given, check with a math teacher.

3. Q: Where can I find descriptions of these courses?

A: In the course guide! This also lists any prerequisites for a course. It is located online. On www.dbqschools.org, and go to "District" at the top right, then "Curriculum--High School Course Guides".

4. Q: How many math credits do I need to graduate? To get into college?

A: You need 6 semesters of math (3 years) to graduate from Hempstead. That means you need to pass Algebra and Geometry, and then 2 more semesters from *any* of our math courses. In order to get into most 4-year colleges, you **must** take Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

5. Q: Can I ever take two math courses at the same time?

A: There are only a few places in the sequence that double well, because each course depends on the one before it.

- Geometry and Algebra 2 (or the honors versions of these) **can be** completed at the same time.
- AP Statistics and AP Computer Science A are frequently completed at the same time as another math course, such as Precalculus or Calculus.

6. Q: What if I struggle?

A: The most important part is to address this right away! The longer you let things go, the more difficult it will be to recover. First, really take some time to think about why you are struggling. Do you have some gaps from previous years we need to fill in? Is your attendance irregular? Are you perhaps distracted by your phone or other things when you should be thinking about math? Once you know what the problem is, your teacher can work with you to make a plan for how to help. We have lots of opportunities and resources available, so if you are willing to put in the effort, we can help you achieve your goals!

7. Q: What makes an honors level math course different (such as Algebra 2 vs Honors Algebra 2)?

A: Typically, an honors course moves at a faster pace. Students explore more extensions and complete more difficult problems. Both courses cover the same topics, but at different levels. See the descriptions in the course guide for a specific course.

8. Q: What if I take honors, but it's too hard?

A: It's great to challenge yourself! However, you do have the option to switch to regular if you need to. This is called a level change, so the deadline is later in the semester than just dropping a course. If you're not sure, we encourage you to give honors a try. (It's much more difficult to start in regular and switch to honors, since that class moves more quickly.)

9. Q: What Advanced Placement courses can I take?

A: The math department offers three different AP courses. Each one is a year-long course. In May, students take an AP exam. Scores range from 1 (the lowest) to 5 (the highest), and may earn the student college credit. Each individual college decides how they want to award credit.

- Calculus AB: This is equivalent to ONE semester of college calculus (Calc I).
- Calculus BC: This is equivalent to TWO semesters of college calculus (Calc I and Calc II).
- Statistics: This is equivalent to one semester of college statistics. You can take it any time after completing Algebra 2.

Additionally, the CTE department offers AP Computer Science A. This is equivalent to one semester of introductory programming in Java. The prerequisite for this course is Algebra 2, because it uses the same logical thinking that you practice in math!

10. Q: How are AP grades weighted?

A: Students earning grades of A, B, or C in AP courses will receive weighted value for GPA and class rank calculation (A = 5.0, A- = 4.7, etc) instead of the traditional A= 4.0. Only AP courses are weighted, not honors. All other grades use the standard weights. See the course guide for a detailed list of weights.

Still have questions? Please email the Math Content Leader, Jenny Tigges, at jtigges@dbqschools.org with any additional concerns. **Welcome to Hempstead!**