



Math Department Frequently Asked Questions

- *My son had Algebra I in 8th grade, will he be required to take it again?*

Absolutely not. That's a myth perpetuated by our competitors. We want to meet your son where he is when he enters our building. Some parents whose boys have mastery of 8th grade Algebra I choose to have their son take Honors Algebra I, which is designed to further challenge these boys and give them a rock solid foundation. On the other hand, some parents in this case choose to move their son ahead. We find that a number of boys who have already had Algebra I in 8th grade still have significant gaps in foundational concepts when they enter 9th grade. These gaps usually don't manifest themselves until Algebra II, by which time playing catch-up can be a big hurdle. We are happy to have a conversation about which choice will best fit your son and his goals. Then for those who were not top performers in 8th grade math or who did not take Algebra I in 8th grade, our regular Algebra I class is designed to close the gaps they may have in their math skillset. The freshman entrance exam is a great baseline test to get a sense of your son's math proficiency. We also offer a quick assessment specific to Algebra I that can add another data point to the conversation. It's a matter of ethics – we want to place boys in the right spot so they have every opportunity to not only succeed in the immediate, but to build a strong foundation for lifelong educational and professional success.

- *Does my son need to double up on math courses in order to take AP Calculus his senior year?*

No, he does not. Our four-year program is designed to progress students into AP Calculus senior year without having to take two math courses in a single year. If a student wants to take AP Statistics as well as AP Calculus, he would need to double up. Our recommendation is that a student double up during his junior or senior year. This allows your son time to adjust and adapt to the rigor of our curriculum before taking two math courses at one time. Our experience shows that boys that do this perform better on standardized tests like the ACT and AP Exams.

- *If my student has struggled in math or has gaps in his fundamentals, is there a resource to help him prepare for Algebra I?*

Yes. We offer a high school mathematics prep course during the summer months leading into 9th grade. If you are interested in this, please send an email to rmcwilliams@lrchs.org to inquire about how to receive additional information.

- *Does Catholic High have a tutoring schedule to assist boys looking for help with mathematics classes?*

We sure do. Our Mu Alpha Theta Club offers peer tutoring during all main study hall periods. Upperclassmen who have maintained an 'A' average in all math classes will be happy to assist students as they move through Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Additionally, teachers in the math department offer tutoring before and after school.

- *Should I buy my son a calculator for his freshman year?*

It would be our recommendation that your son come in August with a basic scientific calculator. This will get him through his freshman and sophomore year. For his last two years, we require the use of a TI-84 graphing calculator.

- *What classes do you offer?*

We offer Algebra I, Honors Algebra I, Geometry, Honors Geometry, Algebra II, *Honors Algebra II, Finite, Sports Statistics, *AP Pre-Calculus, *AP Statistics, and *AP Calculus. Asterisks indicate courses currently offered for concurrent credit through the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

- *What is concurrent credit and how many hours do you offer?*

In partnership with local colleges, we are able to offer some courses for concurrent, or dual, credit. Students who qualify take the course at Catholic and receive both high school and college credit. In order to qualify for concurrent credit, a student must meet the GPA and testing requirements set by the university and must also pay the university up to \$100 to enroll. Offerings are subject to change, but we currently offer up to 10 hours of concurrent credit.