

## MATH PLUS

### What are the Math PLUS classes at the middle school?

At both middle schools, Math PLUS is offered in all three grades. Math PLUS is one grade level up.

- 6th grade students enrolled in Math 6 PLUS will be learning the Math 7 curriculum.
- 7th grade students enrolled in Math 7 PLUS will be learning the Algebra curriculum.
- 8th grade students enrolled in Math 8 PLUS will be learning the Geometry curriculum.

### Who will be in the classes?

- 6th Graders will not be enrolled in Math 7, they will be with 6th graders learning Math 7.
- Based on enrollment, it is possible that 7th graders will take Algebra with 8th graders *if* numbers do not merit a separate course.
- Based on enrollment, a CMS student may be bussed to MMS for Geometry *if* numbers do not merit a separate course.

### What is the process for testing into the MATH PLUS program?

Incoming 6th Grade	Incoming 7th Grade	Incoming 8th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sign up via form sent to families from Elementary School and take Achievement Test</li><li>● Take "Test out" later (June) if not placed via achievement test</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sign up based on NWEA and Grades (Phase 1)  <i>All A's in the subject (Math)</i> <i>NWEA scores 85% or above for 2022 &amp; 2023</i></li><li>● If criteria above is met, take Achievement Test</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Take "Test out" in June</li></ul>

	<p>(Phase 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take “Test out” later (June) if not placed via achievement.</li> </ul>	
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**What is the timeline for testing into the MATH PLUS program?**

**Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders (Current 5<sup>th</sup> graders)**

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>November</b>	Information is Skylerted to 5th grade families with information regarding the upcoming testing process..
<b>January</b>	<p>Math testing occurs.</p> <p><i>These tests are achievement tests, not math curriculum. This assessment provides data on a student's ability, not content mastery.</i></p>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test scores, along with NWEA and MSTEP data are reviewed by our PLUS facilitator and (one or more) middle school administrator.</li> <li>• Letters are emailed home to families informing them of their students' results.</li> <li>• Students who are accepted are automatically placed into these courses. Parents may opt them OUT.</li> </ul> <p><i>Students who do not successfully test into Math PLUS may sign up for the “testing out” assessment. The “testing out” assessment is similar to a final exam. This exam is based on content/curriculum.</i></p>
<b>March/April</b>	<p>Information regarding “testing out” for Math is included in weekly Skylerts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any incoming 6th grade student that was unable to complete Math 6 PLUS testing in January.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any incoming 6th grade student that completed testing in January but did not meet the criteria for Math 6 PLUS</li> <li>• Any incoming 6th grade student that is enrolled in Math 6 PLUS for the next school year that is interested in Testing Out of that course (including current 5th grade Magnet students)</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	The deadline to sign up is in early May. Once a family signs up for “testing out”, a curriculum map and textbook is given to the student to study.
<b>June</b>	<p>Testing out occurs either on the half days or week after school lets out. Results are emailed within 2 weeks of testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who have scored a 78% or higher are placed in Math 6 PLUS (Math 7 curriculum).</li> <li>• Students who receive a 77% or lower continue with their next sequential 6th grade math class (Math 6).</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students that enroll in SLCS during the summer and are interested in Math 6 PLUS may complete the Math PLUS assessment by contacting Melanie McCoy, the PLUS Facilitator, at <a href="mailto:mccoym@slcs.us">mccoym@slcs.us</a></li> </ul>

**Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> (current 6<sup>th</sup> graders)**

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>November/December</b>	<p>Information is Skylerted to families with information regarding the upcoming testing process.</p> <p>Parents can request their child test for math as long as their student has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All A's in the subject (Math)</li> <li>• NWEA scores 85% or above for 2022 &amp; 2023</li> </ul> <p><i>This is called “Phase 1”. Students who are signed up are reviewed to make sure they meet the above criteria. If they don’t, they still may be</i></p>

	<p><i>tested to gather more data. This decision is made by one or more middle school administrators.</i></p>
<p><b>January/February</b></p>	<p>Math testing occurs.</p> <p><i>These tests are achievement tests, not content. This assessment provides data on a student's ability, not content mastery. This is called "Phase 2"</i></p> <p>Test scores, along with NWEA and MSTEP data are reviewed by our PLUS facilitator and one or more middle school administrators. Letters are emailed home to families informing them of their students' results. Students who are accepted are automatically placed into these courses. Parents may opt them OUT.</p> <p><i>Students who do not successfully test into Math PLUS may sign up for the "testing out" assessment. The "testing out" assessment is similar to a final exam. This exam is based on content/curriculum.</i></p>
<p><b>March/April</b></p>	<p>Information regarding "testing out" for Math is included in weekly Skylerts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Any incoming 7th grade student that was unable to complete Math 7 PLUS testing in January.</li> <li>● Any incoming 7th grade student that completed testing in January but did not meet the criteria for Math 7 PLUS</li> <li>● Any incoming 7th grade student that is enrolled in Math 7 PLUS for the next school year that is interested in Testing Out of that course.</li> </ul>
<p><b>May</b></p>	<p>The deadline to sign up is in early May. Once a family signs up for "testing out", a curriculum map and textbook is given to the student to study.</p>
<p><b>June</b></p>	<p>Testing out occurs either on the half days or week after school lets out. Results are emailed within 2 weeks of testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students who have scored a 78% or higher are placed in Math 7 PLUS (Algebra).</li> <li>● Students who receive a 77% or lower continue with their next sequential 7th grade math class (Math 7).</li> </ul>

<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students that enroll in SLCS during the summer and are interested in Math 7 PLUS may complete the Math PLUS assessment by contacting Melanie McCoy, the PLUS Facilitator, at <a href="mailto:mccoym@slcs.us">mccoym@slcs.us</a></li> </ul>
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**Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> (current 7<sup>th</sup> graders)**

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>March/ April</b>	Information regarding “testing out” for Math is included in weekly Skylerts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any incoming 8th grade student interested in Testing Out of their next sequential Math course.</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	The deadline to sign up is in early May. Once a family signs up for “testing out”, a curriculum map and textbook is given to the student to study.
<b>June</b>	Testing out occurs either on the half days or week after school lets out. Results are emailed within 2 weeks of testing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who have scored a 78% or higher are placed in Math 8 PLUS (Geometry).</li> <li>Students who receive a 77% or lower continue with their next sequential 7th grade math class (Algebra/PreAlgebra).</li> </ul>

**How are students identified for the PLUS Program?**

Parents must sign their child up for testing and the testing results drive placement. We are transitioning to a new achievement test. This test is called the Iowa basic Skills assessment. All data is reviewed and NWEA scores can impact acceptance into the program.

**What happens with Magnet students?**

- Students who are in the Magnet program at Pearson are automatically placed in both Math PLUS (and ELA Honors) as they have received accelerated instruction/content in both areas.

- No testing is needed for these students.
- Parents may opt their student out of Math PLUS.

#### Can students switch into Math PLUS midyear?

No. Math PLUS switches can only happen year to year. Moving math classes midyear means students are missing entire units of study that are foundational to future units. It's best for the student to test for the following year and enter the program at the beginning of the school year.

#### Can students leave the PLUS program?

Yes. There have been rare occasions where a student is failing and/or struggling in Math PLUS have been moved to the general education Math. This can happen at anytime in the year.

#### What happens in High School for PLUS students?

Students take their next sequential math class, but will NOT be grouped with grade level peers. Students who are taking Geometry in 8th grade will take Algebra 2 in 9th grade. At the high schools, Algebra 2 has 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders in the class.

#### What is the "testing out" process for Math?

All school districts are legally obligated to provide the opportunity for students to "test out" of courses that assign high school credit. For middle school, any students can "Test out" of Spanish, Algebra or Geometry, they do not have to be enrolled. We have extended the opportunity to "test out" of Math 6 and Math 7. Although these two courses do not assign HS credit, we offer this to all students (PLUS or Gen Ed).

#### How are families notified?

Families are notified of the testing timeline and process via Skylerts. Families are notified of their results via email from Melanie McCoy (PLUS Facilitator). Families are notified of "testing out" results from their building principal via email.

#### How are new to district students identified for Math PLUS?

Students who move to the district over the summer are offered a testing opportunity in August. This test includes both the achievement and "test out" at the same time.

**Students who move mid-year are reviewed on a case by case basis. Depending on the course description and success in their previous district, students may either be placed in Math PLUS automatically or asked to test for more data to appropriately place student.**

## ELA HONORS

### What are the ELA Honors classes at the middle school?

At both middle schools, ELA Honors is offered in all three grades.

ELA has a higher emphasis on skills rather than content, the Honors course does not operate at the next grade level. ELA Honors consists of the same standards and teaching points as the grade level course but with a more rigorous pace, instruction style, discussion, and use of higher level texts. Due to this pace and depth of lessons, there will be more opportunities for self-directed learning, therefore, students in ELA Honors are expected to have strong time management and organizational skills for optimal success.

### Who will be in the classes?

Students in ELA honors will only be with their grade level peers. Based on enrollment, it is possible that a CMS student is bussed to MMS for ELA 8 Honors.

### What is the process for testing into the ELA Honors program?

Incoming 6th Grade	Incoming 7th Grade	Incoming 8th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sign up via form sent to families from Elementary School and take Achievement Test</li><li>• Parent may opt in even if not placed. Testing is required in order to opt in.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sign up based on NWEA and Grades (Phase 1)</li></ul> <p><i>All A's in the subject (ELA) NWEA scores 85% or above for 2022 &amp; 2023</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If criteria above is met, take Achievement Test (Phase 2)</li><li>• Parent may opt in even if not placed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No testing or previous placement needed. Student/Family choice</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student may opt in if tested in the previous school year.</li> </ul>	
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**What is the timeline for testing into the PLUS program?**

**Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders (Current 5<sup>th</sup> graders)**

<b>When</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>November</b>	Information is Skylerted to 5th grade families with information regarding the upcoming testing process..
<b>January</b>	<p>ELA testing occurs.</p> <p><i>These tests are achievement tests, not math curriculum. This assessment provides data on a student's ability, not content mastery.</i></p>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test scores, along with NWEA and MSTEP data are reviewed by the PLUS Facilitator and one or more middle school administrators.</li> <li>• Letters are mailed home to families informing them of their students' results.</li> <li>• Students who are accepted are automatically placed into these courses.</li> <li>• Parents may opt them OUT.</li> <li>• Students who do not meet the threshold into ELA Honors may still join if the parent requests it.</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students that were unable to complete ELA 6 Honors assessment in January may do so in August by contacting Melanie McCoy, the PLUS Facilitator, at <a href="mailto:mccoym@slcs.us">mccoym@slcs.us</a></li> <li>• Students that enroll in SLCS during the summer and are interested in ELA 6 Honors may complete the ELA Honors assessment by contacting Melanie McCoy, the PLUS Facilitator, at <a href="mailto:mccoym@slcs.us">mccoym@slcs.us</a></li> </ul>

### Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> (current 6<sup>th</sup> graders)

When	What
<b>November</b>	<p>Information is Skylerted to families with information regarding the upcoming testing process.</p> <p>Parents can request their child test for ELA as long as their student has</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All A's in the subject (ELA)</li><li>• NWEA scores 85% or above for 2022 &amp; 2023</li></ul> <p>This is called "Phase 1". Students who are signed up are reviewed to make sure they meet the above criteria. If they don't, they still may be tested to gather more data. This decision is made by one or more middle school administrators.</p>
<b>January</b>	<p>ELA testing occurs.</p> <p><i>These tests are achievement tests, not ELA curriculum. This assessment provides data on a student's ability, not content mastery.</i></p> <p>This is called "Phase 2".</p>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Test scores, along with NWEA and MSTEP data are reviewed by the PLUS Facilitator and one or more middle school administrators.</li><li>• Letters are mailed home to families informing them of their students' results.</li><li>• Students who are accepted are automatically placed into these courses.</li><li>• Parents may opt them OUT.</li><li>• Students who do not meet the threshold into ELA Honors may still join if the parent requests it.</li></ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students that were unable to complete ELA 7 Honors assessment in January may do so in August by contacting Melanie McCoy, the PLUS Facilitator, at <a href="mailto:mccoym@slcs.us">mccoym@slcs.us</a></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students that enroll in SLCS during the summer and are interested in ELA 7 Honors may complete the ELA 7 Honors assessment by contacting Melanie McCoy, the PLUS Facilitator, at <a href="mailto:mccoym@slcs.us">mccoym@slcs.us</a></li> </ul>
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**Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> (current 7<sup>th</sup> graders)**

When	What
<b>Spring/Summer</b>	<p>Any current 7th grader may sign up for ELA 8 honors and is not required to test. This follows the high school model and 7th graders have two years worth of ELA grades and NWEA scores to help families make the decision.</p> <p>Students/Families notify the PLUS facilitator and/or counselor and can be placed in ELA 8 Honors or ELA 8.</p>

**How are students identified for the Honors Program?**

Parents must sign their child up for testing and the testing results drive placement. We are transitioning to a new achievement test. This test is called the Iowa basic Skills assessment. All data is reviewed and NWEA scores impact acceptance into the program.

**What happens with Magnet students?**

Students who are in the Magnet program at Pearson are automatically placed in ELA Honors (*and Math PLUS*) as they have received accelerated instruction/content in both areas. No testing is needed for these students. Parents may opt their student out of ELA Honors.

**Can students switch into Honors midyear?**

Generally speaking, no. If a student tested for ELA Honors and did not get it, but parent is opting them in, we may move students at the semester.

**Can students leave the Honors program?**

There have been rare occasions where a student is failing and/or struggling in ELA Honors and have been moved to the general education ELA course. This can happen at anytime in the year.

**What happens in High School for ELA Honors students?**

Students can choose ELA 9 or ELA Honors 9. Students do not have to test, nor do they have to be in ELA Honors 8 to take ELA Honors 9. Conversely, students in ELA 8 Honors do not have to take ELA Honors 9. Students will be grouped with grade level peers.

**What is the “testing out” process for ELA?**

There is no “Test out” option for ELA as no ELA courses in middle school offer high school credit.

**How are families notified?**

Families are notified of the testing timeline and process via Skylerts. Families are notified of their results via email from Melanie McCoy (PLUS Facilitator).

**How are new to district students identified for Honors ELA?**

Students who move to the district over the summer are offered a testing opportunity in August. Students who move mid-year are reviewed on a case by case basis. Depending on the course description and success in their previous district, students may either be placed in Honors automatically or asked to test for more data to appropriately place student.