

8th Grade CMP Math vs. Algebra 1

As you discuss the two 8th grade math options with your child, you will need to decide whether or not your student should enroll in the 8th Grade CMP Math course or take the 9th Grade Algebra 1 course as an 8th grader. The 7th & 8th Grade teachers have put together a list of qualities that we would expect to see in a student looking to succeed in the Algebra 1 class.

While it is not necessarily a requirement that a student meet *all* of the criteria outlined below, it is strongly recommended that they meet *most* of it. Please remember that taking the 9th Grade Algebra class in 8th grade is essentially skipping 8th grade math. Sometimes the question is not necessarily whether or not a student *can* do the math in Algebra 1, it is whether or not they *should* do it. We think having students go into high school with the confidence gained from having a solid 8th-grade year is the best choice for the majority of our students. As you decide, please consider the long-term effects of this decision and whether or not those effects are more important than any perceived status that skipping 8th-grade math would provide.

8th Grade Algebra 1 Student Profile

√	Quality	Description
	Success on Assessments	Student is achieving consistently high scores (93% and above) on in-class assessments (unit test & skills quizzes) on the first try. Rarely or never requires a make-up.
	Workload	Student is able and willing to handle a much higher volume of homework than in an 8th grade math class. Students in Algebra move at a faster pace in class and through homework.
	Passion	Students LOVE math and are willing to work at it, especially when it is hard. They may seek out riddles/puzzles/problems to do in their free time. They may see themselves someday working in a STEM field. (Note: Algebra 1 in 8th Grade is not by any means a requirement to working in STEM)
	MAP Scores	Students have demonstrated consistently strong Math MAP scores.
	Perseverance / Grit	For some students this may be the first time they have not scored "As" routinely. Students need to be open to seeking out help outside of class (for example, with teacher, study group or online) and be OK with grades that may not be perfect.

*Q: What do the possible math progressions look like for incoming 9th Graders who have taken **CMP**?*

Grade	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
8	CMP	CMP	CMP	CMP
9	College Prep Algebra I	CP Algebra I	Honors Algebra I	Honors Algebra I
10	College Prep Geometry	CP Geometry Part 1	Honors Geometry	Honors Geometry and Honors Alg 2
11	College Prep Algebra 2	CP Geometry Part 2	Honors Algebra 2	Honors Pre-Calculus
12	College Algebra & Trigonometry	CP Algebra 2	Honors Pre-Calculus Or Advanced Math Topics	College Alg & Trig, AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB

*Q: What do the possible math progressions look like for incoming 9th Graders who have taken **Algebra**?*

Grade	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
8	Algebra 1	Algebra 1	Algebra 1	Algebra 1
9	Honors Geometry	Honors Geometry	College Prep Geometry	CP Geometry
10	Honors Algebra 2	Honors Algebra 2	College Prep Algebra 2	Honors Algebra 2
11	Honors Pre-Calculus	College Algebra & Trigonometry	College Algebra & Trigonometry	Honors Pre-Calculus
12	AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus AB & AP Calculus BC	AP Statistics or other Advanced Math Topics	College Alg & Trig, AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB