

505 - GWA Math Policy

Approved by GWA Board of Directors April 26, 2012

All classes at George Washington Academy will teach out of the Saxon Math Curriculum. As part of GWA's academically rigorous curriculum, each grade will teach one grade level ahead for all students.

Students will be placed in the following courses:

- Kindergarteners into Saxon Math 1
- 1st Graders into Saxon Math 2
- 2nd Graders into Saxon Math 3
- 3rd Graders into Intermediate 4
- 4th Graders into Intermediate 5
- 5th Graders into Course 1 (Math 6)
- 6th Graders into Course 2 (Math 7)
- 7th Graders into Course 3 (Math 8)
- 8th Graders into Secondary Math 1, or Secondary Math 1-Honors

When a new student enters the school, any time after the first week of classes, he or she will be given a Saxon Baseline Test for the course they are to be assigned, purely for the purpose of establishing current levels. Parents of any student who scores at a level lower than their current assigned grade level (two years lower than GWA level) must meet with administration prior to their student beginning classes at GWA. Students may not go down a level unless they have an Individualized Education Plan OR, unless after a minimum trial period of eight weeks in the GWA course, they continue to struggle despite classroom interventions and concerted effort on the part of the student and the parents. If the minimum trial period of eight weeks has passed and the student is not showing improvement, a change may be considered only if a meeting is held with the student's parents, math teacher, and school administration. Students may not be moved without the required meeting, administrative approval, and completed paperwork. If there is a reason for an exception to this policy it needs to be approved through the child's parents and the school administration.

CRITERIA FOR MOVING DOWN IN MATH:

The following reasons for moving down in math may be considered for students in all grades:

- The student has an Individualized Education Plan that requires specialized math instruction or Resource Math.
- Completion of the prior year's course with a grade of 'F' in two or more trimesters (or in the case of students in grades K-2 earn '1's in math all year).
- Before a child is allowed to move down in math, a conference must be held with the parents, the teacher who is advocating the move, and the administration. The parent(s) must complete and sign a "Parent Acknowledgement of Math Placement" form prior to final approval being granted.

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CRITERIA FOR MOVING AHEAD IN MATH:

Students should not be encouraged to advance beyond courses taught at current grade levels without careful consideration. GWA already teaches math a year ahead and all courses are needed to build the foundations necessary for Pre-Algebra, Algebra/Secondary Math 1. In rare exceptions, when a child is extremely advanced in math, they may be permitted to skip a course if mastery is shown (see criteria below), and parents and administration approve the decision. In certain rare instances, students in Grades K-4 who have met the following criteria may be considered for advancement beyond their current grade level course:

- Completion of the prior year's course with a minimum of a B+ average (87-89%) on all cumulative tests and a minimum score of 87-89% on the End-of Course exam for the course that they would like to skip (the exam may be taken once and must be done within the first four weeks of school).
- Before a child is allowed to skip a course, a conference must be held with the parents, the teacher who is advocating skip, and the administration. The parent(s) must complete and sign a "Parent Acknowledgement of Math Placement" form prior to final approval being granted. Once a student begins Course 1 they must complete the following courses in the listed order: Course 1, Course 2, Course 3, Algebra/Secondary Math 1. In some instances when the child has scored consistently high on their Benchmark tests, homework, and End-of-Course Tests in Course 1 and Course 2 as per the previously listed criteria, is emotionally mature enough to handle the course work, and has their parent's support, skipping Course 3 may be considered. As per Saxon Math recommendations, Course 3 is the only course after beginning Course 1 that may be skipped, and only if the student meets all of the above listed requirements.

All math course changes involving advancement must be made within the first four weeks of school. This will allow the child to learn the concepts that have already been taught and earn a fair grade for the trimester in the new math course.

Parents should be aware that GWA only guarantees math courses up to Secondary Math 1. Students eligible for Secondary Math 2 or any math level higher than that may need to do independent study or seek math instruction elsewhere. Additionally, it is important to note that students who skip more than one year ahead may have difficulty being placed appropriately when they leave GWA, as some middle and high schools do not currently offer higher level math courses for 9th graders.