

High School Math Courses in Middle School

What courses are offered at Ruckel Middle School for HS credit in Mathematics?

- Honors Algebra 1 (9th grade course)
- Honors Geometry (10th grade course)

Are there pre-requisites for these courses? Yes.

- To take Honors Algebra 1 in 7th or 8th grade, the child must have a teacher recommendation, level 4 or 5 on FCAT or other state testing, completion of Pre-Algebra in 6th or 7th grade.
- To take Honors Geometry in 7th or 8th grade the child must have a credit for Honors Algebra 1 on their transcript. Effective 2010-2011 the child must have successfully completed the State EOC in Algebra 1 to earn this credit.

Are there policies for grade forgiveness for the HS courses?

- Yes. If your student earns a grade less than a “B” in any high school credit course taken at the middle school level, he/she may re-take the course for grade forgiveness the following year. This may be done in middle school or in high school during the 9th grade. Both grades remain on their transcript; however, the second grade is used for GPA calculation.

What are the advantages to this advanced track for my student?

- Your child will be exposed to a more rigorous curriculum.
- Your child could potentially earn 2 high school math credits prior to entrance to high school.
- Your child could potentially graduate from high school with Calculus AB and or Calculus BC – both Advanced Placement (AP) courses that may earn college credit with a passing exam score

What are the risks to this advanced track?

- Pressure of a more rigorous curriculum on a child that is already heavily involved in extracurricular activities – this can be overwhelming at the middle school level.
- Any grade earned is automatically part of your HS GPA. Do I want to start high school with a B average?
- If your child struggles through the courses in middle school it could potentially cause him/her to begin to dislike mathematics and endanger his/her success in future math classes.

Notes from Niceville High School and a post-secondary standpoint...

- It is not advisable for students to accept high school credit if they are earning less than an “A” or if what elevates the grade is homework rather than actual test scores. In other words, consider the grades earned on actual tests rather than any grade that might be based on completion of class work. A strong foundation in Algebra I is key to further success in future high school math courses.
- Students who enter high school with high school math credits earned in middle school should still plan to take a math class each year in order to be competitive in the college admissions process. Students who reach the calculus math level traditionally earn bonus points on their application in the Florida University System.
- Graduating high school with more than the required 24 credits isn’t a necessity for college admissions. What matters most is the quality/level of the 24 credits. i.e. are they honors, Advanced Placement or AICE Cambridge University courses?

Is there a bottom line?

- ***Yes, know your student, be aware of their desires to excel coupled with their extracurricular activities. Can they manage/schedule the additional work that will come from the course(s)?***
- ***Can you/do you accept that your child may start high school with a weighted “B” on their transcript (3.5) vs. a weighted “A” (4.5)?***
- ***Does your child’s intended path for college dictate graduation from high school with calculus 1 and or 2?***
- ***Your child is still on a college bound track without these courses on their transcript.***

Please contact the Math Department Chair, Mrs. Susie Watson, if you have any questions about High School credit. Watsons@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us or call the school at 833-4142 and leave a message for Mrs. Watson.