



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Frequently Asked Questions Seaholm High School Mathematics Department

### **Q: How will I know what mathematics course to choose?**

**A:** The 8<sup>th</sup>-grade mathematics teacher will make the recommendation for your child's mathematics course. They are extremely accurate. If you do not agree with the recommendation, you may contact Seaholm to schedule a placement test for the spring or late summer. But, in the meantime, you must schedule for the recommended course.

### **Q: What is integrated mathematics?**

**A:** Integrated mathematics refers simply to the organization of the mathematics students learn. Instead of having separate courses for algebra and geometry, integrated programs present mathematical topics sequenced in ways that help students see the connections between ideas and the coherence of mathematics as a discipline. Research has shown that this type of instruction is very rigorous and can result in increased student engagement and higher student achievement. The recursive nature of an integrated program provides several opportunities for students to learn concepts over time. These concepts are presented multiple times, in increasing complexity and depth, over the course of the three-year sequence.

### **Q: What is the difference between the Advanced and Honors mathematics courses?**

**A:** The Advanced mathematics courses are the same as the College Preparatory courses. Students are considered to be one year ahead of the College Preparatory sequence and can reach AP Calculus AB their senior year (opportunity to earn one semester of college calculus credit with the AP exam). The Honors mathematics courses are not only one year ahead, but they operate at a higher and more rigorous level, extending students' conceptual thinking and problem solving skills. These students typically reach AP Calculus BC their senior year (opportunity to earn two semesters of college calculus credit with the AP exam).

### **Q: Can I ever change mathematics levels after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade?**

**A:** If things are going well in mathematics during the 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year, there are a few different ways you can advance into a higher mathematics sequence. The mathematics teacher, counselor, or Mathematics Department Head can help make these arrangements. If you are struggling at any level, the mathematics teacher, counselor, or Mathematics Department Head can help make the change to a more appropriate level.