



Addison Trail Math Department

Common Questions and Answers

1. How is my child placed in a math class?

All eight grade students take the Explore test. The results of this test are used along with teacher recommendation to place students into one of two entering levels of math. The students who have been successful at Algebra in 8th grade will go into Geometry (Honors or Regular). Students who have completed Pre-Algebra in 8th grade will go into Algebra. If a student has struggled with math in the past, they will be placed into Algebra and also be placed into a Math Resource Class to allow for extra assistance to improve their skills.

2. What if my child needs more help?

Help is always available! Teachers will generally (depending on coaching schedules) be available either before school or after school to meet with their individual students. Students can also take advantage of our ATR (Addison Trail Resource) time that is built into every Tuesday through Friday to ask for a green resource pass to receive help. The passes are on a first come first served basis with limited availability. Additionally we have a Math Resource Center, which is staffed throughout the school day with a math aid. Students will at times be requested to attend during their lunch for remediation on certain topics, or they can drop in during LSC, study hall, or lunch to have their questions answered. Students (and parents) can also access Classzone.com which has online tutorials and practice problems.



Most of our teachers have also created websites that will have current information about what is happening in their classrooms (upcoming quizzes or tests), in addition to completed notes, handouts, worked out solutions, and webcasts.

If you are interested you can check out a link for geometry lesson from a flipped classroom:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3W3WPEzV8Y&feature=youtu.be>

3. What if my child is not challenged enough?

It is our goal to appropriately challenge each student in class. The Math Staff has been trained in CRISS (Creating Independence through Student-Owned Strategies) strategies and differentiated instruction which helps reach this goal. We also have monthly math contests for the exceptional student to participate in.

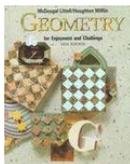
4. What technology is used in the classroom?

Depending on the course and the teacher you will see many different types of technology in the classroom. Teachers use PowerPoint, The Geometer's Sketchpad, and Texas Instruments - Graphing Calculators to name a few. All of our classrooms have Smartboards (an interactive white board) which really helps students become active with their learning. Of course technology is always changing and students can be exposed to many different interactive on-line quizzes and demonstrations.



5. What textbooks are used?

Our Geometry course uses:
Geometry for Enjoyment & Challenge
by McDougal Littell/Houghton Mifflin,
New Edition



Our Algebra course is created by teachers and does not currently use a textbook.

6. What calculator should my child have?

All students will need a Graphing Calculator. Our department recommends the TI family of graphing calculators, with a preference on TI-84+. The calculators cost around \$120, but if you pay attention in August you can generally find them on sale for around \$100.



What is a graphing calculator?

A graphing calculator is a type of calculator that allows for users to utilize graphing features for more advanced mathematics. Most students in middle school and high school learn how to do graphing by hand but the use of a graphing calculator makes it easier for an entire class to move through materials. It also gives students in high school a chance to take advanced math classes, such as statistics and calculus which require a more detailed graphing calculator to do such equations.

Why do students need one?

More and more high school students in particular are being required to use a graphing calculator during math classes. Teachers send home letters, explaining the reasons why a student needs one and if they cannot afford one, they can be loaned one for the year. However, it is usually more beneficial to buy one because a student can pre-program certain features into it to make things easier. Teachers usually have a clear cut case as to why a student benefits from owning a graphing calculator.

Over time, a student utilizes a graphing calculator in many ways. They use it to do problems, save time doing equations and actually see how particular math formulas work. They can actually see things play out on the calculator in ways doing it by hand does not necessarily show them. Graphing calculators can be used long after math class ends and students move on in their education.

Can a student survive without a graphing calculator?

While a student can generally live without a graphing calculator, it does make things easier the more advanced math they do over time. It helps them speed through the process once they learn it and they can begin to advance on more difficult mathematical concepts. While math can always be done by hand, utilizing a graphing calculator can help students learn in ways they understand better now than ever. Do not discount buying your student a graphing calculator, instead show them why both ways of doing math are the best way to learn it for life.

7. What class will my child take in the future?

Students will follow a general sequence of classes progressing through Algebra to Geometry then Advanced Algebra and Precalculus. We also offer specialized courses in computer programming and statistics.

8. How can I help my child be successful?

The best thing you can do to help your child is monitor their progress and encourage them to do their homework. You can check their progress through Power School, our on-line grade book. When you see them having difficulties, encourage them to speak with their teacher or come in for extra help.

More Questions?

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