

Math Placement

To ensure proper placement of your son in his Math Course, Northridge requires a math placement exam for all enrolled students entering grades 6-9.

Dates (pick one)

- Saturday, May 1st, 9:00 - 10:30 am
- Wednesday, May 5th, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Register for a test

- Upon enrollment, new parents can [sign-up here](#).

What to bring

- Two #2 pencils and an eraser
- Bring a calculator only if you may be placing into Algebra (or higher). Otherwise, no calculator needed

While your son tests. Parents are welcome to stay at Northridge during the test; there'll be an opportunity to meet with other new parents. We hope to see you there!

Results and Placement.

- Our Heads of School and Math Department will place your son in the appropriate math course based on his performance both on this test and in previous math classes.
- We'll consult with you if we have questions, and communicate his placement typically within two weeks of the exam.

For any further questions, please contact [Michele Whalen](#), Admission Coordinator at (847) 375-0600 x 457

FAQs About Math Placement

Why does my son need to take a placement test?

The placement test will be used to help the Mathematics Department recommend the appropriate placement for your son. This allows Northridge to place your son in the math course in which he will be most successful. Initially, this will also determine the track your son will have in Mathematics as he continues here at Northridge.

What math is tested on the placement test?

The placement test your son will take depends on what grade level he will be in this coming fall, and also his last completed math course (as shown on his transcript). Please see below for the topics each placement test will cover. In general, each of these placement tests will cover a subset of the math knowledge that we expect your son to have from his previous classes as well as test his readiness to take math courses in the fall. He will be required to show all his work that reflects his thinking and demonstrates mathematical skills, habits, and understanding.

What does my son need to take the test?

Students need to bring two #2 pencils and an eraser. Those who are taking the Algebra placement test are also required to bring a calculator.

Why can't my son use a calculator on certain tests?

The placement test is designed to measure your son's facility with basic mathematical skills that are needed for the math courses our Department offers. Because of this, using a calculator will generally not help him. We believe he will score better by knowing the material and working it all out by hand. Calculators will be used as appropriate in his Mathematics courses once he is attending Northridge.

Does my son need to study for the test?

We encourage your son to review, not necessarily study, for the placement test. We have scheduled these placement tests at the end of the current school year so that the topics are still fresh in his mind. The topics that will be tested are listed below.

When can my son take the test?

There are two available test dates: May 1 and May 5. It is imperative that we have these tests completed as close as possible to the end of the school year; this will allow us to have the most accurate assessment of your son's abilities.

How long is the test?

The Algebra placement test must be completed in ninety (90) minutes or less while all the others must be completed in fifty (50) minutes or less.

Can my son take a placement test meant for a higher level math course so he can be placed into that math course?

An incoming student must take the placement test that corresponds to the course(s) for his grade level. In case he performs exceptionally well on this test, the Mathematics Department may permit him to take a placement test normally given to the next grade level. The result of this test will be evaluated based on the Department's standards for that higher grade level as well as the student's previous records. Since the placement tests only cover a subset of the math knowledge covered in our math courses, the student's final placement is not definitive. The school takes into account the student's proper math placement as well as its mission to provide its students with formation for the whole person. Consistent with this goal, the school will evaluate his performance during the first quarter to determine if it is the best interest of the student to continue at that math course he is registered.

Topics of Placement Test

Incoming 6th & 7th graders.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Basic operations with whole numbers and decimals2. Order of operations with numbers3. Translation of words to mathematical expressions4. Solving one- and two-step equations5. Comparison of values of decimals and fractions6. Operations with fractions7. Simple understanding of tables, patterns and graphs8. Understanding of ratios and graphs9. Calculation of properties of basic geometrical figures (triangles and quadrilaterals)
Incoming 8th & 9th graders who haven't taken Algebra 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Basic operations with real numbers and algebraic expressions (with variables)2. Order of operations with numbers and algebraic expressions3. Translation of words to mathematical expressions4. Solving one- and two-step basic linear equations and inequalities5. Simple understanding of tables, patterns, ratios, proportions, and graphs6. Calculation of properties of basic geometrical figures (circles, triangles and quadrilaterals)
Incoming High School students	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Basic operations with real numbers and algebraic expressions2. Order of operations with numbers and algebraic expressions3. Translation of words to mathematical expressions4. Solving one- and two-step linear equations, quadratic equations, and inequalities5. Solving systems of linear equations6. Understanding of tables, patterns, ratios, proportions, and graphs7. Calculation of properties of basic geometrical figures (circles, triangles and quadrilaterals)