



## PCHS MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT POLICY (approved 3/29/16)

1. PCHS will consider multiple objective academic measures to determine appropriate math placement for freshmen. These measures include:

- PCHS Algebra Placement Exam given in the spring before the freshman year
- PCHS Algebra Placement Retest given in July before school starts, if necessary
- Course completion and grades earned in previous math classes
- California Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test results and achievement levels

Please refer to the **PCHS Mathematics Placement Criteria** for specifics as to how these measures are used to determine placement.

2. Using ID#s as the only identifier, student test results from the PCHS Algebra Placement Exam/Retest will be analyzed for proficiency on all essential standards assessed (see **PCHS Algebra 1 Essential Standards and Skills**). Based on their performance on the test, a student will either be required to take an Algebra 1 class or will be placed into the next appropriate math level. Students will NOT be held back solely on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background. If a student does NOT take the Placement Exam or Retest, they will be placed into an Algebra A or Algebra 1A class as outlined on the **PCHS Mathematics Placement Criteria**.

3. Students who take the Placement Exam in the spring will be notified by mail of the placement. If a student (or their parent/guardian) has questions/concerns regarding the placement or questions the placement, (s)he has the following options:
  - Contact the Math Placement Test Coordinator.
  - Take the retest on the scheduled date in July.
  - Demonstrate proficiency of all required standards on the Checkpoint Test given the first week of school. (See #4 below.)

Because there is not sufficient time before the beginning of the school year for mail notification, students who take the test in July will be informed of their final placement on their fall semester schedule of classes. Scores and placement information will also be available upon request when they are available.



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4. During the first week of school, PCHS will administer a Checkpoint Test in all Algebra 1 classes to determine if a student's placement requires adjustment. If a student is able to demonstrate proficiency on ALL required standards at this point AND has earned a grade of C or better in UCOP-approved prerequisite courses, the student will be scheduled into a math class at the next appropriate level as space permits. Priority will be given to students who enrolled after the July test date as the Checkpoint Test would be their first opportunity to test. The class schedule of a student registered before the July test date who did NOT take either the PCHS Placement Exam or the PCHS Placement Retest may be impacted to accommodate these late changes.
  
5. A report and analysis of the Placement Testing results will be shared annually with the Math Department, Academic Accountability Committee, and the Board of Trustees. The exams will also be reviewed annually and modified as needed.
  
6. This Math Placement Policy will be publicized and shared with all stakeholders, including Revere Middle School and other feeder schools from which our students regularly matriculate, via our website. Information will also be provided as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment packet.



## PCHS MATH PLACEMENT CRITERIA

Students currently taking AND passing Algebra 1, Geometry, or Algebra 2 in Middle School:

LAST MATH CLASS COMPLETED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL	CRITERIA	HIGH SCHOOL MATH PLACEMENT
Algebra 2AB or Geometry AB or Algebra 1AB (C or better)	Scored ADVANCED levels of achievement on ALL assessed Algebra 1 Essential Standards and Skills on the FIRST attempt of the PCHS Placement Exam OR PASS PCHS Placement Exam AND earned a <b>B or better</b> in a UCOP approved Algebra 1AB-equivalent course AND <b>Exceeds</b> Standards on Grade 8 Math SBAC Test.	HONORS college-prep course at the next math level
	PASS PCHS Placement Exam	College-prep course at the next math level
	Does NOT pass PCHS Placement Test OR PCHS Re-Test BUT earned a C or better in a UCOP approved Algebra 1AB-equivalent course AND Met/Exceed Standards on Grade 8 Math SBAC Test	Next math level course
	Demonstrates proficiency with Alg 1A standards	Algebra 1B
	Does NOT pass/take PCHS Placement Exam AND PCHS Re-Test	Algebra 1A

Students who are currently not passing Algebra 1 or are taking pre-Algebra in Middle School:

LAST MATH CLASS COMPLETED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL	CRITERIA	HIGH SCHOOL MATH PLACEMENT
Algebra 1 AB (D or FAIL)	PASS PCHS Placement Exam	Algebra 1A
	Does NOT pass/take PCHS Placement Test AND PCHS Re-Test	Algebra A
Algebra A1/A2, Algebra Readiness or Other Pre-Alg courses	PASS PCHS Placement Exam	Algebra 1A
	Does NOT pass/take PCHS Placement Test AND PCHS Re-Test	Algebra A



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## **QUALIFICATION FOR HONORS LEVEL MATH CLASSES -**

- An incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade student may only qualify for honors math classes by demonstrating advanced levels of achievement on all of the assessed Algebra 1 Essential Standards and Skills on their first attempt on the placement exam OR by earning a B or better in a UCOP approved Algebra 1AB-equivalent course AND Exceeds Standards on Grade 8 Math SBAC Test.

## **RETESTING OPPORTUNITY -**

- The PCHS Re-Test in July is available to students who took the PCHS Placement Test in the spring.

## **CHECKPOINT AFTER SCHOOL BEGINS -**

- During the first week of school, PCHS will administer a Checkpoint Test in all Algebra classes to determine if a student's placement requires adjustment. If a student is able to demonstrate proficiency on ALL required standards at this point AND has earned a grade of C or better in UCOP-approved prerequisite courses, the student will be scheduled into a math class at the next appropriate level as space permits.



## PCHS ALGEBRA 1 ESSENTIAL STANDARDS AND SKILLS

*Students must demonstrate proficiency on ALL essential standards listed to place out of each level. To PASS the Placement Exam or Placement Retest, a student must demonstrate proficiency on all essential standards for both Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B.*

### **ALGEBRA A**

- Perform operations with real numbers including integers, fractions, and decimals.
- Evaluate expressions using the correct order of operations.
- Simplify expressions with exponents using the rules of exponents.
- Add, subtract, and multiply polynomials.
- Simplify square roots and perform operations with radical expressions.

### **ALGEBRA 1A**

- Simplify expressions with exponents using the rules of exponents.
- Add, subtract, and multiply polynomials.
- Simplify square roots and perform operations with radical expressions.
- Solve multi-step linear equations.
- Solve and graph linear inequalities, including compound inequalities.

### **ALGEBRA 1B**

- Graph linear equations in slope-intercept form or standard form. Graph horizontal and vertical lines.
- Write an equation of a line in any form given sufficient information.
- Solve systems of linear equations algebraically and systems of inequalities graphically.
- Solve quadratic equations by factoring, completing the square, and the Quadratic Formula.
- Graph and write an equation to model a linear, quadratic, or exponential function.
- Graphically represent data and use summaries of distribution to describe and analyze the data.

*\*\*For a complete list of California Common Core State Standards for Algebra 1, please refer to the document at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/ccsmathstandardaug2013.pdf>.*