

Introduction

Welcome to the PK-6 Mathematics department for the Livingston Public Schools. Our program provides engaging instruction that is fully aligned with the focus, coherence, and rigor of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/math/Index.shtml>). We offer multiple and diverse opportunities to meet our students' learning needs. In each grade level, instruction is focused on conceptual understanding, visualization, mathematical variation, application, procedural skill, and math fluency. We also believe that within classrooms, positive norms for math, developed by Dr. Jo Boaler, lay at the foundation of student learning.

- Mistakes are valuable.
- Questions are really important.
- Math is about creativity and making sense.
- Everyone can learn math to the highest levels.
- Math is about connections and communicating.
- Math is about learning.
- Depth is more important than speed.

Resources

Students in grades K - 6 are using Math in Focus 2020 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All students receive a consumable textbook and access to the program's rich online components from their classroom teacher through the platform Ed Your Friend in Learning.

Mathematics Basic Skills Intervention (BSI)

Students who need additional support in mathematics as determined by their grades and assessments in previous math classes, teacher recommendations, and/or their performance on the NJSLA test may be recommended for BSI Math instruction. The BSI Math support, depending on the grade level, is a combination of pull-out/push-in services that work to provide small group targeted instruction to support, strengthen, and enrich a student's foundational math skills.

The 5 - 6 Mathematics Program

Throughout the year in 5th grade, data is collected to determine 6th grade math placement. The process is completed by way of a math matrix which factors in the average of marking period grades, the average of two math placement tests, and a rubric score, completed by the math teacher, to assess a student's mathematical practices, based on the standards. Once all data points are factored in, a student will be placed into levels A, B, or C for 6th grade math. The process takes into consideration that math success is closely related to developmental readiness in terms of conceptual and abstract thinking. Careful consideration is taken for each student to ensure that a student's placement is the "just right" fit for them. Letters will go out

throughout the year to inform parents/guardians of the dates for placement tests and the process.

The 6 - 7 Mathematics Program

Throughout the year in 6th grade, data is collected to determine 7th-grade math placement into Algebra 1, Pre-Algebra A, or Pre-Algebra B. The process is completed by way of a math matrix which factors in the average of marking period grades, the Orleans Hanna Assessment, IXL, and a rubric score to assess a student's mathematical practices. The process takes into consideration that math success is closely related to developmental readiness in terms of conceptual and abstract thinking. Careful consideration is taken for each student to ensure that a student's placement is the "just right" fit for them. Students are not at a disadvantage, regardless of placement, and will still be able to take advanced courses, in math, in high school regardless of their initial mathematics placement. Letters will go out throughout the year to inform parents/guardians of the dates for placement tests and the process.

Middle School Math Sequence

The middle school mathematics sequence takes into account student developmental readiness as well as the progression of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs). The mathematics placement process takes into consideration that math success is closely related to developmental readiness in terms of conceptual and abstract thinking. It is a data-driven process that includes multiple data points including marking period grades, a placement test score, standardized test scores, and a teacher score based on a rubric of observable mathematical behaviors (e.g., Does the student engage in mathematical discussion? Is the student able to work independently on challenging math problems? Can the student apply mathematical thinking to novel problems?). Careful consideration is taken for each student to ensure that a student's placement is the "just right" fit for them. All students will have the opportunity to take advanced mathematics courses in high school regardless of their initial placement in middle school mathematics.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Our extracurricular activities provide students with wonderful opportunities to deepen their love of mathematics outside of the classroom.

All students in fourth grade are welcome to participate in our 24-game competition which is held in the spring after school. Students will receive more information about the competition from their teachers in the second half of the school year.

In sixth grade, students can participate in the Continental Math League (CML). This competition takes place throughout the year through participating in 5 different competitions. These competitions take place during the day, within math class. Students will be provided with more information about CML by their math teacher.

<https://www.cmleague.com/>

In sixth grade, students are invited to compete in the New Jersey Math League competition. In 2020, Mt. Pleasant Middle School students placed fourth in the state among 115 schools which participated. The competition is held each year after school at Mt. Pleasant Middle School in February. Students will be provided with more information about the competition by the district as the date approaches.

<http://www.mathleague.com/>

6th-grade students are also invited to participate in the Math Counts after-school club. Meetings begin in the fall. Students will receive more information about Math Counts from their school.

<https://www.mathcounts.org/>

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