

Mathematics Ninth Grade Placement and Placement Appeals Process

The Glenbrook North Mathematics Department has an extensive curriculum designed to meet individual needs. Placement is possible into one of many courses. Each course also has a variety of levels. Our goal is to place a student into the course where the student will be challenged and successful. Acceleration of a student into a course for which the student is not prepared leads to future difficulties in mathematics courses due to sequential nature of the content and the necessary accumulation of knowledge, understanding, skills, and dispositions to learn. Although effort is an important component for success, it cannot compensate for deficiencies in conceptual understanding or skill development from previous courses.

Criteria: In order to make a placement decision, the Mathematics Department examines the following information. The relative weight of each indicator may vary depending upon the circumstances. No one factor will cause a student's placement in or exclusion from a particular placement level.

- The student's local percentile TerraNova scores in mathematics.
- The student's local percentile TerraNova scores in reading comprehension.
- The student's local percentile TerraNova scores of cognitive skills index.
- Input from the student's eighth grade teacher.
- The assessment of the student's study habits as determined by the eighth grade teacher.
- The student's mathematics grades from seventh and eighth grade math classes.
- Additional pertinent information.

Process:

1. Middle school/junior high students complete standardized testing.
2. Eighth grade teachers give initial placement information (this is prior to seeing TNVA scores).
3. Mathematics Department instructional supervisor reviews standardized test scores, teacher placement information, and student grades.
4. Mathematics Department instructional supervisor meets with the middle school/junior high school math teacher. Final recommendations represent consensus between the instructional supervisor and the eighth grade teacher.

Appeal: Request for Change of Course and/or Level Placement

When parents and students disagree with the placement decision resulting from the process described above, we offer opportunities for a review of the decision. All students requesting a course or level change must complete a placement test either on April 8 or 14, 2010 at 4:00 at Glenbrook North High School.

To begin the process, parents must obtain a Request for Change of Course Level Placement form which will be available at the middle school and junior high schools. This form must be completed along with a detailed rationale of why the change is being requested and returned to the Mathematics Department prior to the published deadline of March 19, 2010. Once your forms are received, a letter will be sent with information on how to schedule the placement test. If your student does not elect to take the placement test, a placement change will not be considered. Filing your request by the deadline is essential. In order to insure a testing date that is convenient, early enrollment is advised.

During the testing session, students are asked to complete a comprehensive test of concepts and skills from prerequisite courses. Some of the tests include a multiple-choice portion that allows a calculator and a free-response portion that does not allow a calculator. The free-response questions require students to show their work, explain processes used, and indicate the solution(s) to the question. The honors placement test is all non-calculator and all free-response. We do not provide a review packet or any content information concerning the placement test.

A team of mathematics teachers meet to assess each placement test. By reviewing actual student work, we are better able to determine the strengths and weaknesses, which may not have been evident from standardized testing or from grades in previous courses. Based on these results, we confirm the original student placement, recommend a 3-week summer program, or recommend the requested change. You will receive a letter in the mail sometime after May 15, 2010 with the placement decision. Guidance counselors will receive the course level change form indicating the placement decision as well.

Our goal is to collaborate with parents and students for placement in learning environments which will maximize student learning. We look forward to working together for a successful transition to Glenbrook North High School.