

Frequently Asked Questions



MORTON
HIGH SCHOOL



Q: What course should my student take?

Students will be enrolled in a mathematics course based on several factors. These factors include prerequisite courses successfully completed, teacher recommendation, placement test scores, standardized test scores, grades, student choice and student career path. Mathematical growth, success in high school, and preparation for the future are the goals of placement decisions.

Q: What is the difference between Honors and Standard level courses?

Both standard level and honors level courses are considered career- and college-preparatory. Students in honors courses will be expected to synthesize information to create solutions to novel problems and be responsible for independent learning more often than students in standard courses. Students in all courses will be expected to be both efficient and accurate on assessments therefore extended time for testing is not offered, in general. However, the length and difficulty level in honors courses may be greater than that of the comparable test in standard. Between the standard courses, Algebra 1A and 1 Standard, the main difference is pacing. All of the courses from Pre-Algebra to Calculus count toward the three years of mathematics graduation requirement. (Refer to Course Flowchart for more details).

Q: If my student struggles in honors, can they move to standard?

No, not after the first five days of class. Course sections are determined after enrollment and there will be limited spots in other courses. During the summer months, students enrolled in honors will have access to summer review materials and prerequisite skills will be assessed in the first few days of class. This test is used to assist teachers, students and parents in confirming honors placement. Students have only five school days to change their schedule from honors to standard. After that time, students can only switch to a standard class at the start of the next semester.

Q: What type of calculator does my student need and how will they use it?

TI-Nspire CX II. Refer to the calculator handout for more details. Your student will use this model for all courses taught in the mathematics department for the next 3 - 4 years. Students will connect the graphical and numerical with the algebraic representations to build stronger understanding. As they begin to take more advanced courses, the calculator will replace the need for computer software (such as spreadsheets, statistical software and graphing software).