



8th Graders Bound for Lansing Catholic High School – Math Information

- Students are placed in a math class according to their 8th grade teacher's recommendation.
 - In January, middle school math teachers will assess their 8th grade students' work habits, ability, and motivation, and send LCHS their recommendation for the most suitable class for each student based on their current body of work.
 - The majority (85-95%) of 9th grade students at LCHS take one of the following classes: Adaptive Algebra 1, Algebra 1 or Honors Algebra 1.
- LCHS also offers the option to test out of Algebra 1 and into Geometry or Honors Geometry.
 - This option requires both an 8th grade teacher recommendation and scoring over 70% on each of the Algebra 1 semester exams and is best suited for mature, hard-working students who excel at math.
 - A small percentage (5-15%) of 9th graders at LCHS test out of Algebra 1 and bypass the class.
 - Exam dates, times, and online sign-up are listed near the bottom of the Incoming 9th Graders Admissions page of the Lansing Catholic High School website:
<https://lansingcatholic.org/content/incoming-9th-graders>
 - The 1st semester exam for Algebra 1 takes place at LCHS in January and the 2nd semester exam takes place at LCHS in June. Students can also choose to take both semester exams in June.

Commonly Asked Questions

Do I have to take the Algebra 1 bypass exams?

The Algebra 1 bypass exams are optional. You only need to take it if you are trying to bypass Algebra 1. If you do not take the bypass exams, you will be placed in the Algebra 1 class that your 8th grade math teacher recommends for you. The purpose of the bypass exam is to identify students who excel in math, have a firm understanding of Algebra 1, and are ready for Geometry. If that doesn't sound like you, then not taking the exam, and taking Algebra 1 in 9th grade is an acceptable option, and the most common option choice for 9th graders. Algebra 1 is the foundation for all of the other math classes you will take.

What if I don't really feel comfortable yet with Algebra, and want to take Algebra again in 9th grade so that I can really understand the material. Is that OK?

Yes! The majority of students all over the country take Algebra as 9th graders. You will in no way be "behind." In fact, we recommend repeating Algebra 1 to gain a solid understanding over barely passing with a shallow understanding. Algebra is the foundation for all of the other math classes you'll ever take.

It's important to me to get in as much math as possible in high school. If I don't pass the exams, will I still have time to get in Calculus before I graduate?

Yes! Students can get to Calculus by doubling up with Honors Algebra 1 and Honors Geometry during 9th grade, or doubling up with Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 during 10th grade, or by taking a Pre-Calculus class at LCC or MSU in the summer between 11th and 12th grade. Keep in mind that colleges and universities do not expect you to take Calculus in high school.

How much work should I put into getting ready for 9th grade math and my exams?

We want students to give their best effort as always. However, it is common for both students and parents to over emphasize the importance of the bypass exams. Taking an Algebra 1 class as a 9th grader is perfectly acceptable. We want you do your best and thoroughly understand the content at a pace that is right for you so that you are successful in future classes like Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus.

I have more questions. Who can I contact?

LCHS Math Department Chair: Mrs. Gina Hipple gina.hipple@lansingcatholic.org

LCHS Admissions Coordinator: Mrs. Karen Gavin karen.gavin@lansingcatholic.org