



Board of Education

61 Echo Lake Road
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06795
Telephone: (860) 945-4800
FAX: (860) 945-2775



Lisa M. Fekete
Director of Operations & Curriculum
(860) 945-4812
feketeli@watertownps.org

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to provide important information regarding recommendations for high school math placement for students currently taking Advanced Mathematics at Swift Middle School. As you may already know, Algebra I is taught as part of the Eighth Grade Advanced Math Program for credit and as a requirement for placement in Geometry as a freshman. Algebra is one of the most important topics in Math as it forms a base for the complex concepts in the higher classes. Therefore, it is essential that students meet specific criteria and master key concepts to earn the high school credit and advance successfully to more complex mathematics courses. This fact, along with our ongoing concern about the unfinished learning left in the wake of COVID-19, drives us to be especially careful to be sure that we are matching students to the appropriate Math courses that will set them on a path for success in high school and beyond.

Several data sets are used to make recommendations for placement into high school math, including standardized test scores, iReady Benchmark Assessments, class grades and teacher recommendation. Given that we have had two very atypical school years due to the pandemic, we have decided to add another data point to ensure that we make the best possible recommendation for placement.

This week, students are taking the **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Math Inventory**. The HMH Math Inventory is an adaptive, research-based assessment that reliably measures math ability and progress from Kindergarten to Algebra II. The results from this HMH Math Inventory will be considered along with our traditional data points in order to make a final recommendation for high school math placement. We will reach out to you at the culmination of our placement process to indicate the recommendation for mathematics placement for your child, as well as to discuss any next steps. Should you have any questions at this juncture, please feel free to reach out to me directly for more information. Thank you for our collaboration and partnership as we work diligently to make a seamless transition for your child into high school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Fekete".

Lisa M. Fekete
Director of Operations, Curriculum & Instruction
Watertown Public Schools