



Snoqualmie Valley Public Schools

Our mission is to educate all Snoqualmie Valley children to prepare them for college, career, and citizenship

March 21, 2014

Dear 6th and 7th grade families,

As our district begins implementing the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics in the 2014-15 school year, it is critical our middle and high school math courses are well-aligned to the new standards to prepare our students to be college and career ready. The Common Core in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics simply lay out what foundational skills our students should have mastered at each grade in order to be on track to graduate ready for college and career. As a parent, the Common Core provides you a clearer picture of how prepared your child is for his or her next steps. And this knowledge provides you and your child's teacher an opportunity to make adjustments as needed to ensure there are no surprises down the road.

With the Common Core mathematics standards, there are three major shifts in how the standards were developed in contrast to our current state math standards. The three major shifts are:

1. **Greater focus on fewer topics:** Common Core dives deeper into key concepts, such as fractions and proportions, to ensure students establish a strong foundation before moving to the next level of difficulty. More focus allows students to apply what they are learning to real-world math problems.
2. **Coherence - Linking topics and thinking across grades:** Common Core asks students to connect back to learning they have previously mastered in order to reinforce concepts and see mathematics as a subject that makes sense. The power and elegance of math comes through carefully laid progressions and connections within grades.
3. **Rigor:** Rigor doesn't mean hard problems. It is a balance of three fundamental components that result in deep mathematical understanding: Conceptual understanding, Procedural skill and fluency, and Real-world application. Although memorization is required, students will also be asked to work beyond memorization and communicate the thinking behind answers.

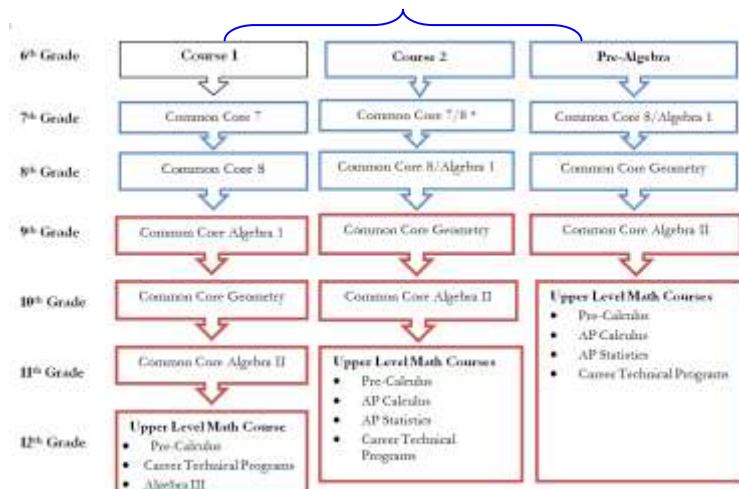
At the same time, there are two main components to the Common Core math standards:

1. Standards for mathematical content which is a balance between a combination of procedures and understanding.
2. Standards for student mathematical practices which describe the varieties of expertise that teachers should seek to develop in their students.

Over the course of the past several months, high school and middle school math teachers along with district administrators have worked together to develop the math sequence of the Common Core-aligned middle and high school math course sequences.

REVISED MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH COURSE SEQUENCE BEGINNING IN 2014-15:

Current 6th grade math placement



WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

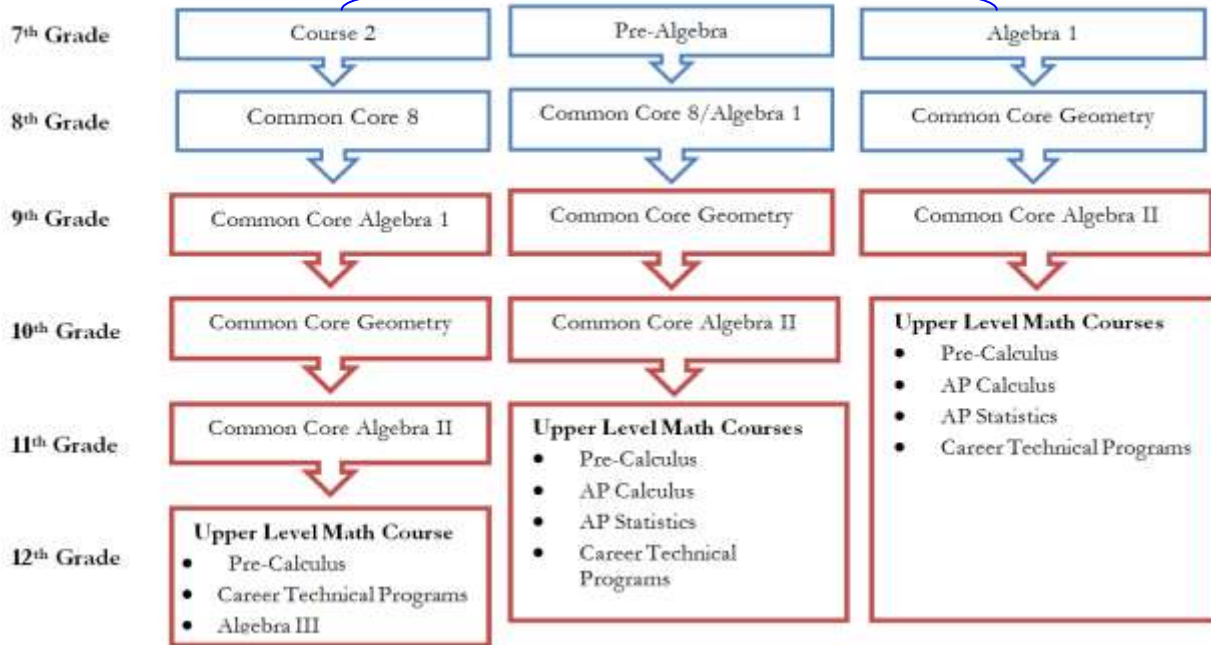
- The CC Math Standards are more focused, coherent, and rigorous than our current state standards. **CC 6**, **CC 7**, and **CC 8** grade-level courses aligned with the CCSS-M and are a stronger foundation for students in middle school to be better prepared to take higher level math courses at the high school level.
- **CC 7/8** and **CC Algebra 1** are compacted and are much faster paced.
 - * **CC 7/8** consists of all CC 7 standards plus a portion of the CC 8th grade standards.
 - **CC 8/Algebra 1** contains the remaining CC 8th grade standards plus the full content of **CC Algebra 1**.



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Current 7th grade math placement



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Parent Math Nights have been scheduled at both our middle schools so you can learn more about the Common Core Mathematics Standards and the revised middle school mathematics course sequence.

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Twin Falls Middle School	Tuesday, April 1	6:30 – 7:30	Library
Chief Kanim Middle School	Thursday, April 3	6:30 – 7:30	Commons

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

- The revised middle school math course sequence is based on recommendations that can be found in Appendix A of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSS-M) which were adopted by our state in 2011. http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_Mathematics_Appendix_A.pdf
- Parent Roadmap to the CCSS Mathematics: <http://www.cgcs.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=244>
- National Parent Teacher Association: <http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>
- Common Core student practice test: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

Sincerely,

Don McConkey
Assistant Superintendent

Kirk Dunckel
Principal – CKMS

Marty Barber
Principal - TFMS