

What does Advanced Mathematics mean for my student?

New & Harder Concepts:

Pre-Algebra is an 8th grade level mathematics course and Algebra I is a 9th grade level course, designed to prepare math-oriented students to complete high level mathematics before leaving high school, including mathematics graduation requirement completion before leaving West Hills STEM Academy. This will give them an advantage in applying for STEM focused majors in college, including medical careers and engineering and technology careers.

Independent Learning:

Students are expected to take their learning into their own hands. This may mean working ahead or mastering already covered skills. This also includes the expectation that students will still be responsible for skills not yet mastered at the 6th and 7th grade levels.

Faster Pace:

Learning modules are designed for students to learn a new skill each day. This requires students to be on top of their learning and master skills quickly.

Homework:

Your student may have assigned up to 60 minutes of homework to be completed nightly. Homework will be assigned each night, including weekends. Students are expected to complete homework in order to perform on the unit assessments.

District Policy Regarding Advanced Placement

Please see the attached document regarding advanced placements courses and district policy for remaining in advanced placement. Students must receive a minimum of a D in order to earn credit for a course. Failure to earn a minimum of a D in either the first or second semester will result in reassignment to an appropriate math course.

What can I do to help my student be successful?

Quiet Work Time:

Provide your student with approximately 1 hour each evening for quiet work time related to their mathematics course. This can be used for homework completion, additional practice in iXL, or preparation for upcoming unit assessments. Encourage your student to set up a routine for mathematics studies.

Nightly Homework Checks:

Your student has homework every night. Ask them about it and check for its completion. Ask your student to explain to you how *and why* they solved at least one problem from their homework. Speaking about their homework each night and having your student verbalize their learning and thoughts helps to cement ideas. Additionally, check the Family Access to keep up on grades and double check student work.

Ask about Upcoming Unit Assessments:

Unit Assessments play a major role in your student's grade and are a good indicator of a student's ability to apply learning in a new context. Ask about these assessments, when they occur, and ensure that your student actively prepares for these assessments in addition to the homework completed for the unit. Spend a half hour reviewing concepts and skills that they may need to know for the assessment.

Access the Online Textbook:

Your student has access to an online textbook. Log in frequently to get additional instruction, practice quizzes, and review key content and vocabulary. Encourage your student to use the online manipulatives available for solving problems.