

**Curriculum/Education Committee Report
January 2010**

Chairs: Rebecca Smondrowski and Ted Willard

**Important Information for Parents of 5th, 6th, and 7th graders
Changes to Admissions Requirements to Maryland Colleges that you need to know before signing your kids up for Math classes next year.**

The University of Maryland System is now requiring that starting with students who enter ninth grade in 2011, applicants will be required to take an advanced mathematics course in their senior year, even if they have completed very advanced mathematics courses in earlier years. Thus, a student who took Calculus as a junior would still need to take another math class in his or her senior year.

Given the progression of mathematics classes in MCPS, the MCCPTA Curriculum Committee is recommending that parents consider carefully when their children take Algebra 1. If a student were to take Algebra 1 in 6th grade, they would be on a pathway that would require them to take very advanced mathematics courses as a junior and as a senior. While such a pathway may be very appropriate for some students, other families may prefer waiting until later to take Algebra so that the mathematics classes they would take as juniors and seniors are more appropriate for their mathematical abilities and/or interests.

The chart below is not comprehensive but provides a basic description of the pathways in mathematics.

6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
			Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus
		Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus
	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus	Multivariable Calculus or Statistics
Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus	Calculus	Multivariable Calculus or Statistics	Statistics or Multivariable Calculus

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Curriculum Committee Co-chairs, Ted Willard and Rebecca Smondrowski