

# Middle and High School Math Pathways



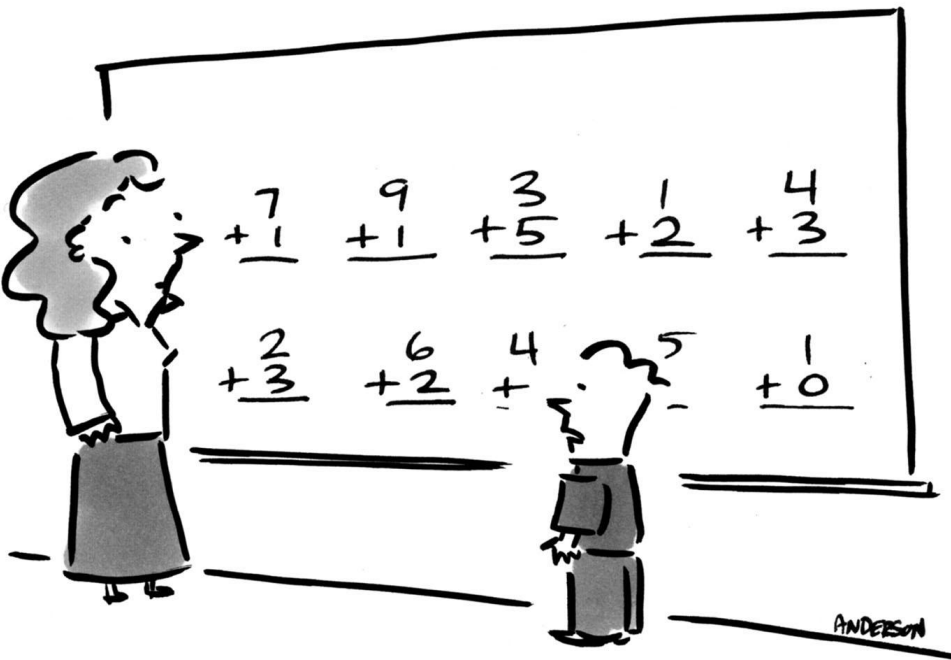
Thurston Middle School PTO Meeting  
April 26, 2017

# Overview

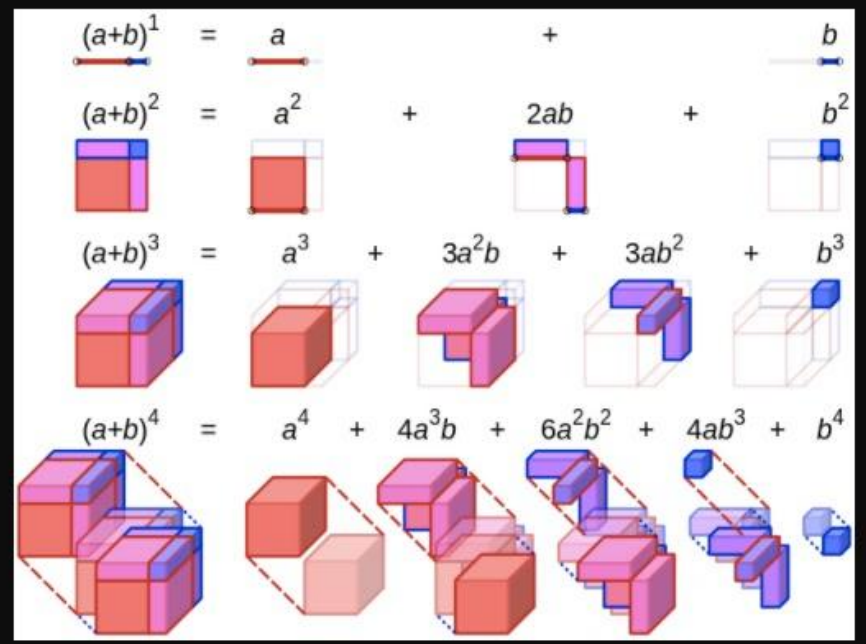
1. Recent changes in math education
2. Course pathways at Thurston
3. WHS math classes
4. Off the beaten path
5. Myths and realities
6. Q & A

# A quick activity...

1. If you haven't already had the chance to do so, introduce yourself to your tablemates
2. Review the “Building with Toothpicks” activity. (No need to actually answer--just read through.)
3. Share your thoughts with your table and discuss. What do you notice about this task? How does it compare with what you remember from your own middle school math? What are the strengths and drawbacks of using activities like these?



"All I'm saying is we plug these into Excel, let it do its thing, and then we can all play until lunch!"



That's Not How I Learned It...

# Recent changes in math education

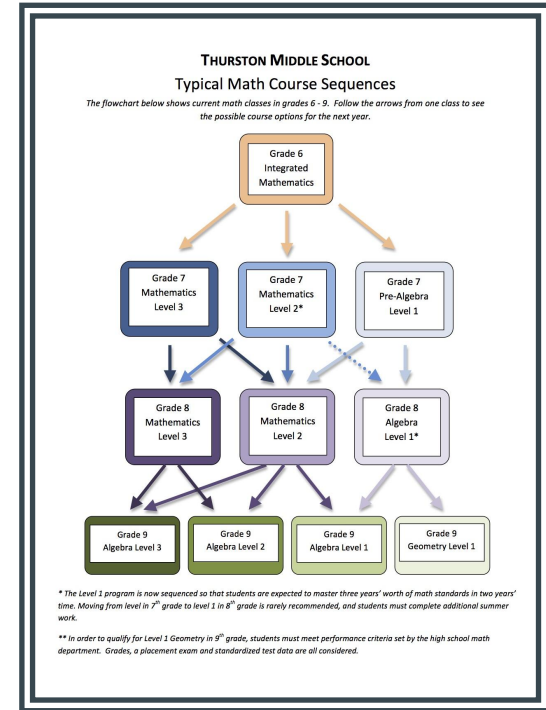
From algorithm-centered to  
concept-centered

The rise of real world problems  
([Dan Meyer's math class makeover](#))

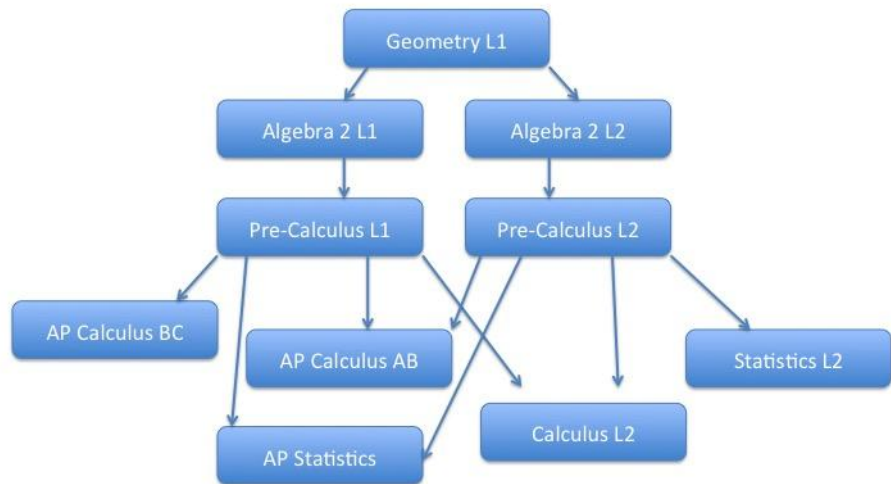
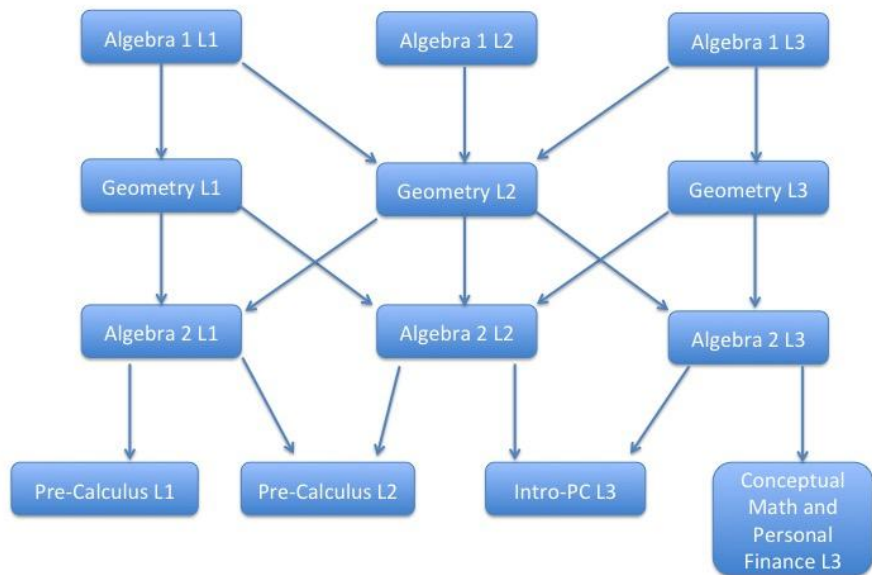
[Technological enhancements](#) to  
understanding

# Math Pathways at TMS

## Sequence Diagram



# Math at Westwood High School



# Acceleration, doubling up and other unusual options

Accelerating at TMS

WHS “double” option

A few words of caution



# Myths and realities

Myth #1: my child needs calculus to get into a good college

Myth #2: my child need to be in Level 1 math in 7th grade in order to get into a good college

Myth #3: my child needs to take outside math classes in order to be successful in math

Myth #4: my child needs a tutor in order to be successful in math

Myth #5: a tutor or outside math class will ensure that my child is successful in accelerated math

**Questions?**