

- ❖ Incoming 9th graders are recommended for courses based on 4 criteria; the cumulative grade at the time of recommendation, STAR Math Assessment score, Midyear Exam grade, and teacher recommendation.
 - Students are recommended for 1 of the following 4 courses, Honors Geometry, College Geometry, Algebra 1, or IMP 1 (Individualized Mathematics Program).
 - Students who received a score of lower than an 800 on the STAR Math Assessment are also recommended for Math Lab 1. This is a course designed to assist students who may be at risk of failing the MCAS. Students who *do not* pass the 8th grade Math MCAS will be scheduled for the Math Lab, all passing students are not eligible for the Math Lab.

- ❖ Calculators are used in *all* our mathematics classrooms. Although we can provide some for use in the classroom, we strongly encourage each student to have his or her own personal handheld for use at home and on critical tests, as well as to increase proficiency and comfort level with the tool.
 - Students in the college or honors program will need a Graphing Calculator when they enter Algebra 2. Graphing technology aids students in *discovering* new ways to think about problems and in *analyzing* data to come up with their own answers to problems. These tools give students a way to *explore* ideas and *visualize* concepts in greater depth than would otherwise be possible. Used appropriately, graphing technology can help lead to *better comprehension* of concepts and their *real-world applications*. Please be assured we also recognize that using technology in the classroom is *not a substitute for mastery of basic skills*. Indeed, we stress building every student's fundamental skills in mathematics. This year we will be using TI-83 and TI-83 Plus handhelds in our classes. Because the TI-84 Plus Silver Edition, TI-84 Plus, and TI-83 Plus products are all *upgradeable*, students can use them for several years of school. Consider this a long-term *investment* in your child's education. It is important to note, too, that a *graphing calculator is permitted for use on the SAT* and ACT** exams* and is permitted or required on several Advanced Placement* (AP) exams. Our state's math exam, the MCAS, also permits the use of most graphing calculators.
 - Students in the standard program will need a scientific calculator. The calculator purchased should have the four math functions (+, -, x, ÷) as well as a square root key $\left(\sqrt{\quad}\right)$.

- ❖ All students must receive a final average of a C- or better to be permitted to move on to the next sequential course in mathematics.

- ❖ Three years of mathematics are required for graduation.

- ❖ All students must pass the Math MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma.

- ❖ Homework is assigned nightly.

Questions/Concerns can be directed to the Director of Mathematics:

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**Mathematics Department 2008-2009
Flow Chart of Courses**

