

# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School

3005 Fatima Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001  
724-375-7565

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<http://ourladyoffatima-hopewell.org>



August 1, 2025

Dear Middle School Families,

I have been working hard to improve the Middle School Math department at Our Lady of Fatima School. Following the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the South Region directives, Our Lady of Fatima School is proud to introduce two separate math tracks for students during their middle school years. Please see the chart below, which outlines the two tracks

Tracks	Pre-Algebra	Algebra	
6th Grade	Big Ideas 6th Chapters 1-10	Big Ideas 6th Chapters 1-10	Big Ideas 7th Chapters: 1-5
7th Grade	Big Ideas 7th Chapters 1-10	Big Ideas Pre-algebra Chapters 1-10	Big Ideas 7th Chapters: 7-10
8th Grade	Big Ideas Pre-algebra Chapters 1-10	Big Ideas Algebra Chapters 1-11	Big Ideas Pre-algebra Chapter 9

Students will be placed into two tracks: pre-algebra or algebra. The students will be assessed and placed in each track based on Iowa scores, pre-course assessment, and teacher recommendations. Tracks will be reviewed at the end of each quarter and reorganized accordingly.

Regardless of which track your student is on, they need to continue to work on their math facts daily. We will continue with Mrs. Martin's math facts (3-minute drill). They also need to complete homework daily. Understandably, students may have homework questions, but students are expected to attempt each homework problem. If they are struggling, they should first ask for help at home. If that is not available, they should email me ([sheckman@olofscs.org](mailto:sheckman@olofscs.org)) but still try the problems, and lastly, they should check in with me the next morning.

This year, we will also be incorporating strategies from Mr. Peter Liljedahl's Building a Thinking Classroom. These strategies encourage students to be engaged and think critically to solve math problems, rather than simply waiting for an answer to be given and then mimicking the process for the next problem.

As in any transitional period, there will be hurdles to overcome. I appreciate your patience, cooperation, and understanding during this second year of implementation. I know your students will persevere and do their best in all areas of their studies. I am looking forward to your students growing into the best mathematicians they can be.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Have a blessed day,

Ms. Heckman

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