

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Middle School

2000 Westmoreland Street

Falls Church, VA 22043

Principal: Carole Kihm

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Middle School has a reputation of academic excellence, recognized nationally in the fields of mathematics and instrumental music and named in the top 5% of the state's schools by Virginia's governor.

Addressing the needs of a wide range of incoming seventh graders from 13 feeder schools, Longfellow's staff uses a combination of teacher recommendations and an algebra diagnostic test to place students appropriately. Leveled courses include Math, Honors, and Algebra I at grade 7 and Algebra Readiness, Algebra I Honors, and Geometry Honors at grade 8.

- ◆ Middle (7-8)
- ◆ 66% White
- ◆ 19% Asian
- ◆ 7% Hispanic
- ◆ 5% Other
- ◆ 3% Black
- ◆ 7% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
- ◆ 6% English Language Learners
- ◆ 11% Special Education

Longfellow provides an accelerated course, Algeom, for students who show advanced skill in mathematics. The course consists of one semester of algebra and one semester of geometry. Teachers use an array of traditional textbooks as classroom resources and adjust the county pacing guide to meet the needs of students. Manipulatives (e.g., fraction strips, pattern blocks, algebra tiles, 3-D shapes) and technology-based tools are used to build connections between abstract concepts and concrete contexts. To ensure that all students can succeed and meet the school's high expectations, informal and formal supports are offered to all students. Teachers provide additional support or tutoring to students, and the Math for Success after-school program is open to any student who wants additional help. Power Math, an intense semester-long course that students take in parallel to a regular math course, provides extra support to help students succeed in their regular math course work.

Algebra Boot Camp is a week-long course that prepares General Mathematics 7 students for the content and expectations of Honors Algebra I. Students who have completed Algebra Boot Camp have been successful in the Honors Algebra I course. The concept is now being extended as an after-school offering for students who need extensions beyond General Mathematics.