

## **What is Algebra 2 Lab & Why Do I Need It?**

### **Background**

In 2011-2012, MHS incorporated an Algebra 2 Lab class into the curriculum in an effort to assist students who scored below benchmark in math on the PLAN test, as this is an indication that they are likely to be below benchmark on the math portion of the ACT test. If a student scores below benchmark on the math ACT, he/she is **required to take remedial math classes in college**. Remedial math classes in college **do not** count toward graduation requirements and effectively cost the same as a required class. Furthermore, the likelihood of successfully graduating from college is significantly decreased if a student must take remedial classes in college.

Once the 2012 Junior ACT results were released and we saw the impact Algebra 2 Lab had on the students' math score, we were astounded. For those who took Algebra 2 Lab, the average student increase in math ACT score from their math PLAN score was well above the comparative increase for any other student group in the high school. The Algebra 2 Lab students had a 40% higher increase than the closest other student group! Since then, the scores have been even better!!

Thus, we increased Algebra 2 Lab from 1 section to 2 sections and continue to target as many students as possible including both regular/honor and even those who were close to not meeting benchmark on the PLAN as these students have grown unbelievably from their PLAN to ACT math score.

### **What is the Algebra 2 Lab?**

- 1) It addresses the gaps in student knowledge to better prepare them for the math portion of the ACT.
  - a. MathXL (online software program) and targeted ACT preparation prior to March ACT test date
- 2) As the common core math standards have been implemented, Algebra 2 has become **much more rigorous**. The Algebra 2 Lab class provides students the time they need to be successful in Algebra 2 which has an end-of-course exam that will count **20% of the student's yearly average in Algebra 2**.
  - a. Additional instruction and assistance with homework for Algebra 2 coursework provided in the Lab class.

### **Why does my child need to take Algebra 2 Lab?**

Your child's math PLAN score suggests that he/she is in the range of students that stand to gain the most from what Algebra 2 Lab has to offer.

## Algebra 2 Lab Student Testimonials

“When I first entered the class, I wasn’t sure why I needed it. I didn’t really want to have two math classes. I didn’t think that it would help me at all. But, I made a 23 on the math part of my ACT. I was estimated to make around 4 points lower than that according to my PLAN scores my sophomore year...”

“When I first saw my schedule and saw that I had Algebra 2 AND Algebra 2 Lab, I was not happy at all. I thought it was for dumb people, but in fact this class has really helped me with preparing for the ACT, EOC, and regular Algebra 2 homework. This class raised my math ACT score 6 points, it’s definitely beneficial... You have an advantage over people who don’t take this class.”

“At first, I was not happy about having an ‘extra math class.’ But, after taking my ACT this year, I realized how much having this class **REALLY** helped me. Also, having this extra class gives you extra time to get help on homework. This class was a life-saver.”

“This extra class improved my math ACT score greatly. It’s nothing to be embarrassed of, taking another math class when it’s only here to help you. I know it raised my math score by 6 points which is a lot for the ACT.”

“I’m thankful I was put in this class, it raised my ACT score 4 whole points! Although the thought of 2 hours of math sounds dreadful, it’s more than helpful”

“... Without Algebra 2 Lab, I wouldn’t understand the (Algebra 2) lessons as easy AND it really helped me prepare for the ACT. So, don’t feel bad if you get put in this class but instead feel honored because they are giving you the chance to improve yourself in a class that is fairly difficult.”

“At first I thought that the Algebra 2 lab class was going to be a complete joke. But as the year progressed, I saw that this class was pretty great. Although it was originally made to help me with the ACT (which it did!) it also allowed me to catch up on my Algebra 2 homework. This class bumped my ACT math score by 9 points. So in the end, this class will help.”

“On the first day of school, I truly didn’t want to go to the class; I thought I really didn’t need it because I was a good math student. But as the year went on, the extra assignments and review paid off. My math ACT score went up 9 points to a 27, allowing me to enter Calculus my freshman year at MSU! I am extremely thankful I was put in this class!”

“It will help so much. I thought that the best I could do on the math portion of the ACT was a 22 or 23 but I made a 26 and I honestly think this class was a major factor of that. If you have the opportunity to take this class I HIGHLY recommend it.”

“No one who gets put in Algebra 2 Lab wants to be in it at first, but by the time you are half way through it, I can promise you that you will be very grateful for our school giving you this option. I will raise your ACT score so much!”