Re: question for math teachers

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>>*From what I've heard (I'm not a math teacher yet), originally two years* of algebra were taught during the freshman and sophomore years of highschool. However, at the time most schools required only 2 years of mathematics to graduate, and it was thought that everyone should see axiomatic mathematics if they were to graduate from high school. At the time a geometry class meant a firm grounding in the theory and application of logic; the class would help students not only in mathematics but whenever they needed to make logical assesments about the world around them.

As things stand now, rigorous geometry classes based on Euclid have become a thing of the past, and college−prep−for−everyone curricula have upped the math requirement, so the old reasons don't apply so much any more. On the other hand, if your daughters have a whole lot of trouble with algebra after one year away, rearranging the schedule so that they have two years away and then jump right into their calculus classes would probably be even more painful, because introductory calculus depends much more on algebra than on synthetic geometry. (Most schools actually have a class called "analytic geometry," which is an introduction to Cartesian geometry and serves both a refresher in algebra, geometry, and trigonometry and as a demonstration of how they can be integrated. This class is generally taken immediately before the first calculus class an in fact is generally a more advanced class than the calculus series.)