



Harrisburg Middle School- Advanced Course Expectations & Criteria for 2015-16

Students electing advanced classes at the Harrisburg Middle Schools should be self-motivated, willing to work at a faster pace, participate actively in class, produce quality work consistently, complete nightly homework and long-term projects, and demonstrate a strong desire to be challenged by the breadth & depth of course content. Maximum daily homework guidelines for advanced courses are 60 minutes for 6th graders, 70 for 7th graders and 80 for 8th graders. This is in addition to time spent during the school day.

Advanced classes at the Middle School level are designed to meet the needs of high-ability learners who meet the criteria for participation. The content and standards in an advanced class are accelerated by one to two grade levels, the pace of learning is faster, the level of critical thinking and problem-solving is extensive, the students are expected to take on greater responsibility for their learning and the quality of their work products, assignments and assessments will exceed typical grade level expectations.

Criteria for Participation:

Students will need to meet three of the four criteria listed for each course. Their eligibility will be determined yearly.

Math

1. 90%+ average for current school work in Math- A or B+ grade & a teacher recommendation that they are capable of skipping a full year and still do A-B+ work in class
2. Smarter Balance score in Math is rated a 4 or advanced
3. At least two quarterly Renaissance scores at or above the 85% or score on Algebra Aptitude/Springboard Placement test meets cut-off (Grade 5 only)
4. TAG placement- student has been identified as Gifted and Talented

Reading & Language Arts

1. 90%+ average for current school work in both Reading & Language Arts- A or B+ grade & a teacher recommendation that they are capable of skipping a full year and still do A-B+ work in class
2. Smarter Balance score in Reading is rated a 4 or advanced
3. At least two quarterly Renaissance scores at or above 85% or Score on Springboard Placement Test meets cut-off (Grade 5 only)
4. TAG placement- student has been identified as Gifted

Science

1. 90%+ average for current school work in Science- A or B+ grade & a teacher recommendation that they are capable of skipping a full year and still do A-B+ work in class
2. Dakota STEP/Achievement Test score of Advanced in Science - Grade 5 results
3. TAG placement- student has been identified as Gifted and Talented
4. Score on Science Process Assessment meets cut-off for their grade level

Social Studies

1. 90%+ average for current school work in Social Studies- A or B+ grade & a teacher recommendation that they are capable of skipping a full year and still do A-B+ work in class
2. Placement Score on Social Studies assessment meets cut-off of 85%
3. TAG placement- student has been identified as Gifted and Talented
4. Project/DBQ Essay test meets 90% of rubric points
- 5.

Teacher Recommendation	1-4 score
A. Meets or exceeds standards for coursework.	
B. Is fully engaged in the learning activities.	
C. Demonstrates a strong desire to be challenged.	
D. Is capable of doing A or B+ work with content a year ahead of current grade level.	

Timeline for 2015-16 Advanced Courses:

- 1. Parents of 5th graders and all Middle School students will receive information on criteria at Spring Conferences. Those wanting their child's criteria checked for an advanced class/subject they are not currently enrolled in will need to make this request with the team leader or grade 5 teacher. Students currently in an advanced section will stay in advanced if they continue to meet criteria. Placement tests will be given only to newly referred students this spring. The exception to this is the Algebra placement exam which will be given to students currently in SB Advanced 6th, 7th and regular education 7th graders who teachers are recommending move up to Algebra in grade 8.**
- 2. All 5th graders referred for advanced classes will take placement tests by April 20. North Middle School will give placement tests the week of April 7 and South Middle School will be the week of April 27th. Teachers will receive testing materials in early March.**
- 3. Fifth Grade teachers will enter data into google docs for their referred students by May 1 and administer placement tests only to those who they recommend or if parents make a request to have criteria checked.**
- 4. In both Middle schools Regular Education and Advanced Section Teachers will make recommendations for advanced sections and enter all data into Google Doc by May 1.**
- 5. Results will be emailed to parents as soon as all data is collected and analyzed. We are hoping to do this by the end of May if State Testing results are available quickly.**

Please contact Dr. Laurie Wenger at laurie.wenger@k12.sd.us if you have questions or concerns regarding this process.

Thanks, Laurie