

Should my child take Honors classes in 8th Grade???

8th Grade Algebra/Geometry

Students who have successfully completed Algebra in the 8th grade will receive a *high school elective credit for the course*, and the grade earned will **NOT** be counted in the calculation of the high school grade point average. Students will still be required to earn **four (4) additional math credits in grades 9-12**. Upon completion of Algebra 1 in the 8th grade, the student will take Geometry in the 9th grade (they may not retake Algebra in 9th grade if they pass it in 8th.) The purpose of taking Algebra 1 in the eighth grade is to allow students the opportunity to advance further in mathematics. **Those taking Algebra 1 in the eighth grade should be students who have a high interest in math and/or science and are planning to take Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, AP Statistics and/or AP Computer Science before they graduate from high school.** **For more information, please contact Charley Saiz csaiz@dentonisd.org*

8th Grade Honors English Language Arts and Reading

8th grade honors ELAR is based on two important premises. The first is the expectation that students can and will perform at rigorous academic levels. This expectation will be reflected in the curriculum and instruction of the students. Students will improve their writing, analytical reading, and critical thinking skills. Students will be expected to be able to work more independently than their on-level peers. This includes reading novels on their own, coming to class prepared, and being able to create writing that is clear and engaging. Due to the rigorous nature of honors ELAR students, at minimum, should have scored “meets” on the previous Reading and Writing STAAR tests.

The second premise is the belief that we can and will prepare every student for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and acquisition of knowledge as early as possible. As a pre-cursor to AP courses offered at the high school level, honors English students engage in content in an accelerated and in-depth manner to better prepare them for these courses.

**For more information, please contact Tammy Allen tallen@dentonisd.org*

8th Grade Honors US History

The main difference between Honors US History and Regular US History at Harpool Middle School is the pace, depth of knowledge, and document analysis and writing. We tend to move at a quicker pace in class to be able to push students to greater academic rigor. This could mean student lead assignments, picking up information quicker than a regular class, and looking at things from multiple perspectives. We also have an expectation that students will be able to look at things from multiple perspectives and come up with logical conclusions to events in history. Along the way, to help prepare students for AP classes at the high school level, we look at historical documents and begin to teach the students about constructing answers to document based questions. As we go through the year, we push the students to write correctly formatted historical essays. We also strive to give applicable projects during the year to deepen student understanding of course material. **For more information, please contact Tyler Horner thorner@dentonisd.org*

8th Grade Honors Science

Students enrolled in Harpool's 8th grade honors science course agree to take full responsibility to:

- show a commitment to academic excellence
- attend class regularly
- do his/her own work in order to improve his/her ability to reason, analyze, and understand
- organize his/her time and study habits to complete the course successfully
- confer with the teacher and take immediate action if she/he falls behind

Listed below are activities and strategies incorporated into the honors science course:

- Essay questions on examinations
- Out-of-class projects
- Online assignments and discussions in **Google Classroom**.
- End-of-year group or individual project (includes experimentation, visual, report, and presentation to class)
- Formal lab reports
- Additional labs, some with less instruction/guidance (more inquiry)
- Current events research
- Integration of additional mathematical concepts and graphing skills
- Greater depth of coverage into the scientific concepts
- Higher level thinking skills

**For more information, please contact Anna Melka amelka@dentonisd.org*