

Should my child take Honors classes next year???

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 grade point averages. Students will still be required to take **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 Tonya Styron tstyron@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 on level students. 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 7th grade 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 understand of course material. **For more information, please contact Travis Turek tturek@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 s/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*

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7th Grade Honors Math

Advanced Math at Harpool is much different than the other honors/advanced classes. Our goal for Advanced Math students here at Harpool is to be able to take Algebra as an 8th grader. 7th grade advanced math prepares kids for Algebra, while not mandatory for algebra, it is helpful. Students who take 7th Advanced Math but do not take Algebra do not have to worry about “retaking math.” Advanced Math is not for everyone, students who take advanced math need to be students who are highly interested in Math/Science career fields. Advanced Math classes have an increased rigor, move at a faster pace, meaning we cover more material in a shorter time, and require a high-level work ethic. Students must be mature enough to handle the pressure and workload of being in advanced math while balancing other classes.

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7th Grade Honors ELAR

7th 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 on level students. 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 6th grade Reading STAAR test and maintained an excellent average (90+) through 6th grade in English classes. 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. Honors ELAR is an accelerated and in-depth course to challenge students and prepare them for their future. *For more information, please contact Tammy Allen tallen@fdentonisd.org

7th Grade Honors Texas History

We will journey from the first people living on the land that would later become our home to our modern government. Below you will find information of how grades will be taken as well as the progression of the year.

Students enrolled in Honors Texas History will be held to the following expectations:

- Honors Texas History will be fast paced and rigorous
- The amount of work required will likely be more than any social studies/history class you've taken before
- Students can expect to improve their reading and writing competencies, critical thinking skills, research skills, etc.
- Students will have to work very hard and at times be extremely challenged

*For more information, please contact Travis Turek tturek@dentonisd.org

7th Grade Honors Science

The middle school science curriculum is a spiraling, integrated curriculum. At each grade level students will learn life, earth, and physical science concepts. 7th grade is life science focusing almost exclusively on living things and their environments. Topics spiral through 6th, 7th and 8th grade so that students build on the knowledge gained from one grade level to the next to attain mastery of the subject. Students enrolled in Harpool's 7th Grade Honors Science will be expected to rise to the challenge and put forth their best efforts.

Students will be asked to complete the following as part of their enhanced curriculum:

- Advanced reading comprehension skills is highly recommended
- Capable to completing work independently
- In class and out of class projects (both individual and group)
- Ability to keep up with faster-paced instruction
- Content-based essays as part of unit tests
- Able to write detailed lab conclusions
- Complete enrichment homework (occasionally)

***If your child has had frequent reassessments in 6th grade science and their final grade average is lower than an 85%, should probably not consider honors and may be better supported in regular Science. *For more information, please contact Anna Melka amelka@dentonisd.org