

# Middle School Mathematics and ELA Program Proposal

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March 27, 2023



# Middle School Math

Grade Level, Honors and Accelerated

# Grade 6

Program Choices	Assessments/Recommended Criteria
<b>Math 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students who score below 85% on the fifth grade district benchmark are recommended for the grade level course. They are still on the path to meet a-g UC college requirements.</li><li>• Students who qualify for Honors may choose to enroll in a grade level course.</li></ul>
<b>Math 6 Honors</b>  (open enrollment)	Recommended Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masters concepts quickly, thrives in a faster-paced, rigorous curriculum</li><li>• Shows excitement to learn math - enjoys exploring mathematical connections, proofs, flexible ways to solve problems</li><li>• A history of scoring level 4 (standard exceeded) on SBAC</li><li>• Exceptional work ethic and the ability to persevere through challenging tasks independently</li></ul>
<b>Math 7 Honors</b> (Accelerated math program - grade skip)  (required criteria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students who are successful in Accelerated Math % will be invited into Grade 7 Honors.</li><li>• Math 5 students who meet the following required criteria may move into Grade 7 Honors:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is recommended that students score an 85% or above on <b>the end of year benchmark test to enter the accelerated bridging program.</b></li><li>• Students take the recommended <b>bridge program using Khan Academy</b> over the summer to cover 6th grade math standards.</li><li>• Students must <b>take a second test</b> in early August to demonstrate their mastery of Grade 6 content and score an 85% or higher.</li><li>• These students will attend class with Grade 7 Honors Mathematics students as 6th grade students.</li></ul></li></ul>

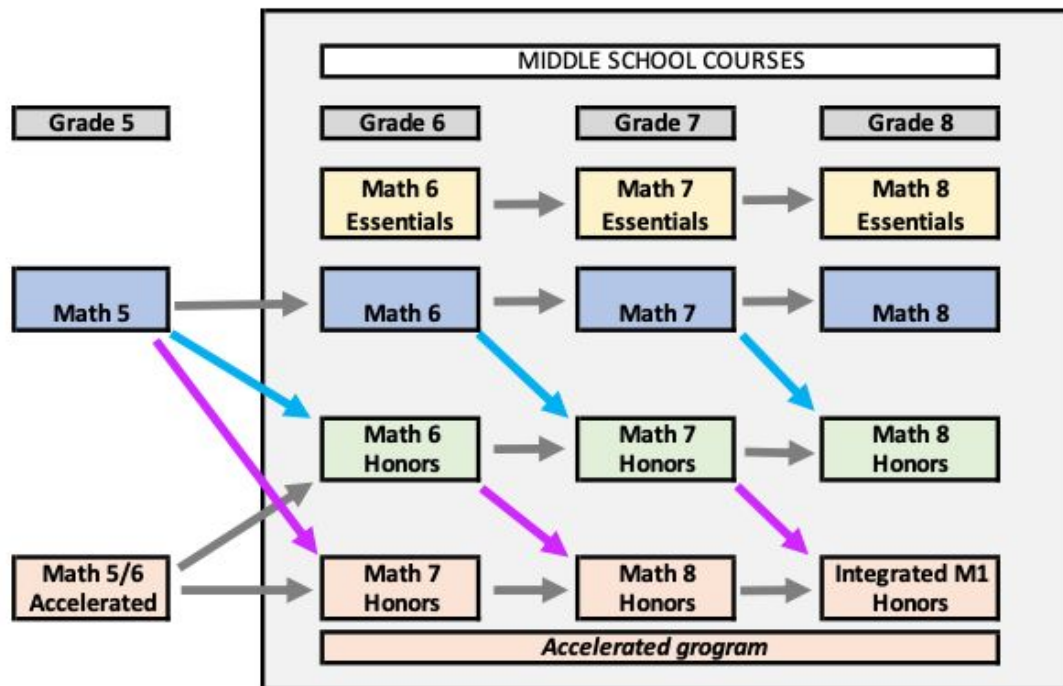
# Grade 7

Program Choices	Assessments/Recommended Criteria
<b>Math 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who score below 85% on the sixth grade district benchmark are recommended for the grade level course. They are still on the path to meet a-g UC college requirements.</li> <li>• Students who qualify for Honors may choose to enroll in a grade level course.</li> </ul>
<b>Math 7 Honors</b>  (open enrollment)	Recommended Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masters concepts quickly, thrives in a faster-paced, rigorous curriculum</li> <li>• Shows excitement to learn math - enjoys exploring mathematical connections, proofs, flexible ways to solve problems</li> <li>• A history of scoring level 4 (standard exceeded) on SBAC</li> <li>• Exceptional work ethic and the ability to persevere through challenging tasks independently</li> </ul>
<b>Math 8 Honors</b> <b>(Accelerated math program - grade skip)</b>  (required criteria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who are successful in Math 7 Honors will be invited into Grade 8 Honors.</li> <li>• Math 6 Honors students who meet the following required criteria may move into Grade 8 Honors:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended that students score an 85% or above on <b>the end of year benchmark test to enter the accelerated bridging program.</b></li> <li>• Students take the recommended <b>bridge program using Khan Academy</b> over the summer to cover 7th grade math standards.</li> <li>• Students must <b>take a second test</b> in early August to demonstrate their mastery of Grade 7 content and score an 85% or higher.</li> <li>• These students will attend class with Grade 8 Honors Mathematics students as 7th grade students.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Grade 8

Program Choices	Assessments/Recommended Criteria
Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students who score <b>below</b> 85% on the 7th grade district benchmark are recommended for the grade level course. They are still on the path to meet a-g UC college requirements.</li><li>• Students who qualify for Honors may choose to enroll in a grade level course.</li></ul>
Grade 8 Honors  (open enrollment)	Recommended Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masters concepts quickly, thrives in a faster-paced, rigorous curriculum</li><li>• Shows excitement to learn math - enjoys exploring mathematical connections, proofs, flexible ways to solve problems</li><li>• A history of scoring level 4 (standard exceeded) on SBAC</li><li>• Exceptional work ethic and the ability to persevere through challenging tasks independently</li></ul>
Integrated Math 1 (Accelerated math program - grade skip)  (required criteria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students who are successful in Math 8 Honors will be invited into Integrated Math 1.</li><li>• Math 7 students must meet the following criteria to move into Integrated Math 1:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is recommended that students score an 85% or above on <b>the end of year benchmark test to enter the accelerated bridging program.</b></li><li>• Students take the recommended <b>bridge program using Khan Academy</b> over the summer to cover 8th grade math standards.</li><li>• Students must <b>take a second test</b> in early August to demonstrate their mastery of Grade 8 content and score an 85% or higher.</li></ul></li></ul>

## Math Pathways for RSF Middle School



**Blue arrow:** Honors pathway: Open enrollment. Suggested criteria in class description.

**Purple arrow:** Accelerated - Grade-Skip: Summer bridge course covering the grade level content highly recommended. Students must pass a mandatory entrance exam at the end of summer.

# Grade Level vs. Honors Courses in Mathematics

## What to Expect

### Grade Level

#### What to expect:

- Grade level curriculum with student-centered tasks
- Mastering concepts will prepare students for a choice of regular or honors-level mathematics courses in high school
- Interactive tasks where students learn by doing mathematics
- A mix of independent, small-group and whole-group learning
- In-depth mathematical discussions

### Honors

#### What to expect:

- All expectations listed for grade level, plus:
- An increased coursework load (additional lessons, unit(s) of study)
  - Lessons and instruction move at a faster pace
  - More time required at home to complete assignments and prepare for tests
  - Higher-level thinking questions on assessments

# Honors Math Courses - Things to Consider

- Students learn best and can reach their full potential in an environment where they feel comfortable taking risks but have enough skills and knowledge to access new material. Anxiety inhibits learning. Please keep your child's ability and temperament in mind when discussing the appropriate math class with them.
- Regardless of which math class students take in middle school, there are many options to advance in high school as well.
- Work overload: is your child taking an honors course in ELA? Spanish 2? Has a full schedule after school? Taking more than one high-level course will greatly increase workload. Consider your child's whole schedule when making placement decisions.



# Middle School ELA

Grade Level and Honors Reading

# Middle School Reading Program

- The same curriculum will be used for all levels of reading classes. The Teachers College Reading and Writing curriculum is a highly engaging and sophisticated curriculum for grades 6–8, with units of study in fiction and nonfiction, across many genres of literature. Due to our separate reading and writing classes, Rowe students already have nearly double the ELA instruction of all surrounding school districts.
- The goals for all readers are the same: to create lifelong readers. While honors reading classes may help prepare students for honors/AP English coursework in high school, nearly ALL grade-level reading & writing students at this school are well prepared for and encouraged to take 9th-grade honors English.

# Recommended Honors Course Criteria

Due to the fast-paced, rigorous curriculum of this class, **honors students** will be most successful if they:

- Are highly self-motivated with an exceptional work ethic.
- Are passionate about reading and enthusiastically maintain a high level of reading volume.
- Have a history of scoring level 4 (standards exceeded ) on SBAC test.

# Recommended Honors Course Criteria

## Continued

- Keep a well-organized notebook, takes detailed notes, and work well in cooperative learning groups.
- Are balancing their other academic coursework. Parents should carefully consider the extra time commitment, pressure, and outside-of-school activities when considering if a student should take multiple honors-level ELA/Math and advanced foreign language courses.

# What to Expect in an Honors Reading Class

- More frequent and in-depth class-wide discussions
- More whole-class novel reading experiences
- Faster pacing
- More challenging texts

# What to Expect in an Honors Reading Class

## Continued

- Higher expectations for the variety and thoughtfulness in the use of literary strategies, along with more frequent written responses to literature
- Projects to reflect a greater depth of thinking and multi-text connections
- Increase in expected reading volume of pages per week
- Increase in jotting volume (writing about your reading)

# Whole-Class Novels

(this list is in addition to individual and book club reading selections)

	Grade Level students will read*:	Honors students will read:
6th Grade	1. <i>The Egypt Game</i> by Zilpha Keatley Snyder	1. <i>The Egypt Game</i> by Zilpha Keatley Snyder 2. <i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry 3. <i>Diary of Anne Frank</i> or <i>I Am Malala</i> (autobiographical)

*\*Grade-level readers have the option to read any texts from the honors course independently or within a book club.*

# Whole-Class Novels

(this list is in addition to individual and book club reading selections)

	Grade Level students will read*:	Honors students will read:
7th Grade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> by John Boyne</li><li>2. <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> by John Boyne</li><li>2. <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton</li><li>3. <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak</li><li>4. <i>That Was Then, This is Now</i> by S.E. Hinton or <i>Taming the Star Runner</i> by S.E. Hinton</li></ol>

*\*Grade-level readers have the option to read any texts from the honors course independently or within a book club.*



# Whole-Class Novels

(this list is in addition to individual and book club reading selections)

	Grade Level students will read*:	Honors students will read:
8th Grade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>The Red Pony</i> by John Steinbeck</li><li>2. <i>Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>The Red Pony</i> by John Steinbeck</li><li>2. <i>Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London</li><li>3. <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury</li><li>4. <i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding</li></ol>

*\*Grade-level readers have the option to read any texts from the honors course independently or within a book club.*

# Recommendations for Board Approval

1. Grades 6, 7, and 8 Program Choices and Assessments/Recommended Criteria
2. Middle School Math Pathways
3. Grade Level vs. Honors Courses in Mathematics – What to Expect
4. Recommended Honors Course Criteria in ELA
5. Whole Class Novels Used in Honors 6, 7, and 8 for Grade Level and Honors Courses