

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH ACHIEVING MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

## 8th Grade: English Language Arts | Science | Social Studies

### Individual Course Prerequisites

#### Science

**Score of 28 or higher on the ELA rubric AND  
Score of 28 or higher on the Math rubric**

Strong ability to effectively participate in respectful, responsible, high-level discussion.

Ability to effectively work in small groups and independently in lab setting.

#### Social Studies

**Score of 28 or higher on the ELA rubric**

Ability to independently read and analyze primary source documents and use those to construct academic writing pieces.

Ability to investigate historical events from multiple viewpoints.

Ability and willingness to participate verbally in debates and high-level discussions.

#### English Language Arts

**Score of 28 or higher on the ELA rubric**

Ability to speak confidently in front of the class.

Ability to independently analyze reading selections, short stories, and novels.

Ability to independently construct and analyze writing pieces.

Ability to engage in academic discussions.



### General Honors Description

*Our honors classes will offer students challenging curriculum that allows for academic growth by providing high achieving students with rigor and critical thinking activities. Students who are choosing to enroll in honors courses must meet the course prerequisites (listed in the left-hand column). Students and parents must have the understanding that these courses will include additional readings, activities, projects, and other assessments that could, at times, require significant work outside of the classroom and school day. Honors students should be curious learners who are able and willing to independently organize and manage their course work. Students should also have exemplary school attendance.*



# 8th Grade Honors Course Descriptions

## Science

8th grade honors science will be ideal for self-motivated students with an enthusiasm for science. Fields of discussion will include genetics, geologic processes, and motion. Emphasis will be placed on discussion and lab setting. Students will be working extensively both independently and in groups. Successful honors level science students need strong math skills and writing skills. Students will need to be able to employ abstract thinking and accurately complete lab reports.

## Social Studies

Grade 8 Honors Social Studies is designed for those students who show strong academic potential and enjoy history. We will be covering early American History from the years 1607-1877. In honors we will emphasize using primary sources to evaluate historical events. These texts require very strong reading comprehension and above grade-level vocabulary. We will participate in debates, simulations, and project-based learning experiences that allow honors students to go in depth into the historical analysis process. These experiences are purposefully above grade-level. This course requires outside reading, research, and inquiry. Students will need strong academic writing skills, as well as the ability to actively and effectively engage in discussions and public speaking. **Important: 8th grade honors social studies is a prerequisite for taking AP U.S. History as a 9th grader.**

## English Language Arts

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and viewing. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus of writing will be on narrative, informational, and argumentative. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students. The 8th grade ELA honors course is meant to be more rigorous and challenging for students. Learning is the focus, but the expectations and the responsibility of the student are important. Students should expect to be challenged in traditional and new ways. This course will include extra reading and writing throughout the year. Participation in class discussions is imperative.

## Important Notes About Choosing 8th Grade Classes:

Honors classes require summer work, and assessments over that content will occur the first week of school. Additionally, 8th grade teachers have to make recommendations for high school classes in January/February, so proper placement is essential.