

Amherst Middle School
Advanced Course Criteria 2024-25 School Year

Amherst Middle School offers four opportunities for students to participate in accelerated classes. The selection criteria below helps us determine which students are ready to learn at a significantly accelerated level in the subject area indicated. We may also consider a student's New York State Assessment scores and overall behavior in school as additional criteria.

Prealgebra – the course covers parts of the 7th and the 8th grade curriculum, and prepares students to take the Common Core Regents in Algebra.

The criteria for inclusion is:

1. Teacher Recommendation documenting the student's motivation, active engagement, passion to learn and 95% homework completion rate.
2. 95% overall course average, or higher, in Math 6.

Earth Science Honors - accelerated high school level class offered to 8th grade students. Students earn high school credit upon successful completion of the course. The course follows the N.Y.S. Regents curriculum and mandates additional lab classes. The course grade and Regents exam grade are reflected on the high school transcript.

The criteria for inclusion is:

1. Overall grades of 95% or higher in previous science classes during grades 6 and 7.
2. Teacher recommendation based on the student's dedication, work ethic and commitment to learning in an accelerated class.
3. Maintenance of an Earth Science Honors grade of at least 85%.

Algebra Honors - is an accelerated high school level class offered to 8th grade students. Students earn one high school credit. The course grade and Regents exam grade are reflected on their high school transcript.

The criteria for inclusion is:

1. Teacher Recommendation documenting the student's motivation, grasp of mathematical concepts, active engagement, passion to learn and 95% homework completion rate.
2. 85% overall course average, or higher, in Pre-Algebra. **-or-** 95% overall course average, or higher, in Math 7.
3. Maintenance of an Algebra Honors grade of at least 85%.

Studio in Art - is a high school level class offered to high achieving art students during 8th grade. Students earn one high school credit and the course grade is reflected on their high school transcript.

The criteria for inclusion is:

1. Overall grades of 85% or above in 6th grade Art, and all 7th Grade classes, Quarters 1-3.
2. Art drawing, submitted on time, to be reviewed by the Studio in Art instructor.
3. Teacher recommendation based on the student's dedication and commitment to excelling in an accelerated course.

Letters will be mailed in May to those students who meet the above criteria and are scheduled for one or more of these courses.