

2026-2027

ROISD MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG



**Red Oak Middle School
Black Hawks**



**Dr. Joy Shaw Middle School
Gray Hawks**

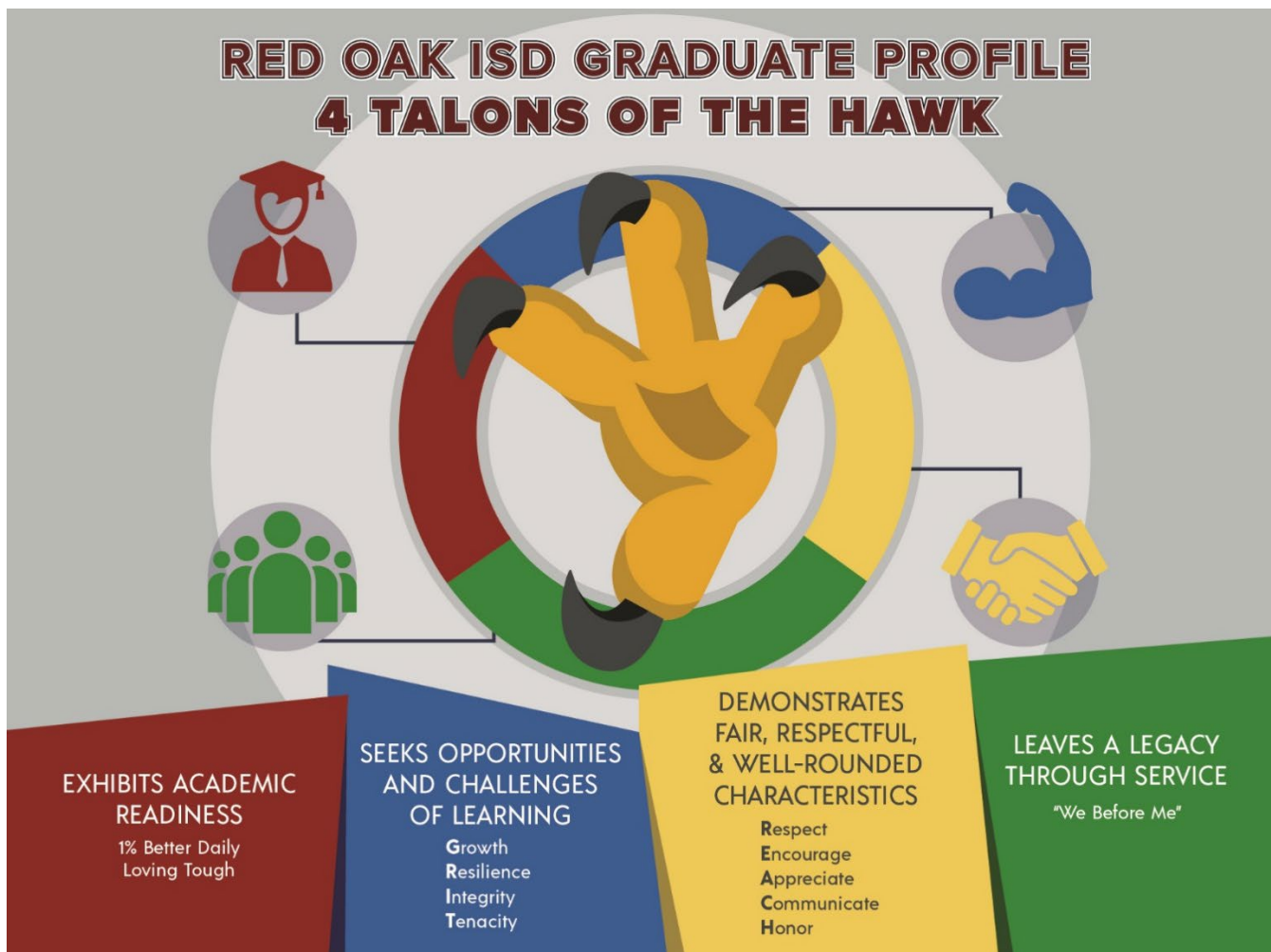


USING THE 2026-2027 6th - 8th GRADE ROISD COURSE GUIDE

This guide will help you as you plan your course sequence from sixth through eighth grades as well as give you information to help guide you through college readiness. Each year it is recommended that you spend time in the current course guide for your campus to identify course options, note any changes to the graduation program requirements, and to help you in your decision-making process as you register for the upcoming year. Additionally, it is recommended that you view the websites for any colleges, certifications, or post-graduation programs you may be interested in to pinpoint their specific requirements.

The staff of Red Oak ISD encourages you to spend time in the course planning process as an investment in your future.

- Read the course descriptions for your campus.
- Note the content and any requirements for the core and elective classes that are available.
- Review the suggested course sequence options and information to prepare for college and career pathways.
- Feel free to make an appointment with your campus counselor to discuss any questions regarding the course guide.



Information contained in this course guide, including available course offerings, is subject to change.

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCES

Following are the recommended sequences for courses in the four core areas based on the student's level of ability and performance. These course sequences are only suggested; a student is not locked into a sequence once it is started. For example, a student may take regular ELAR in 6th grade, then ELAR Honors in 7th grade. In most cases, students may not select a sequence of courses which would result in a loss of grade-level instruction in a content area.

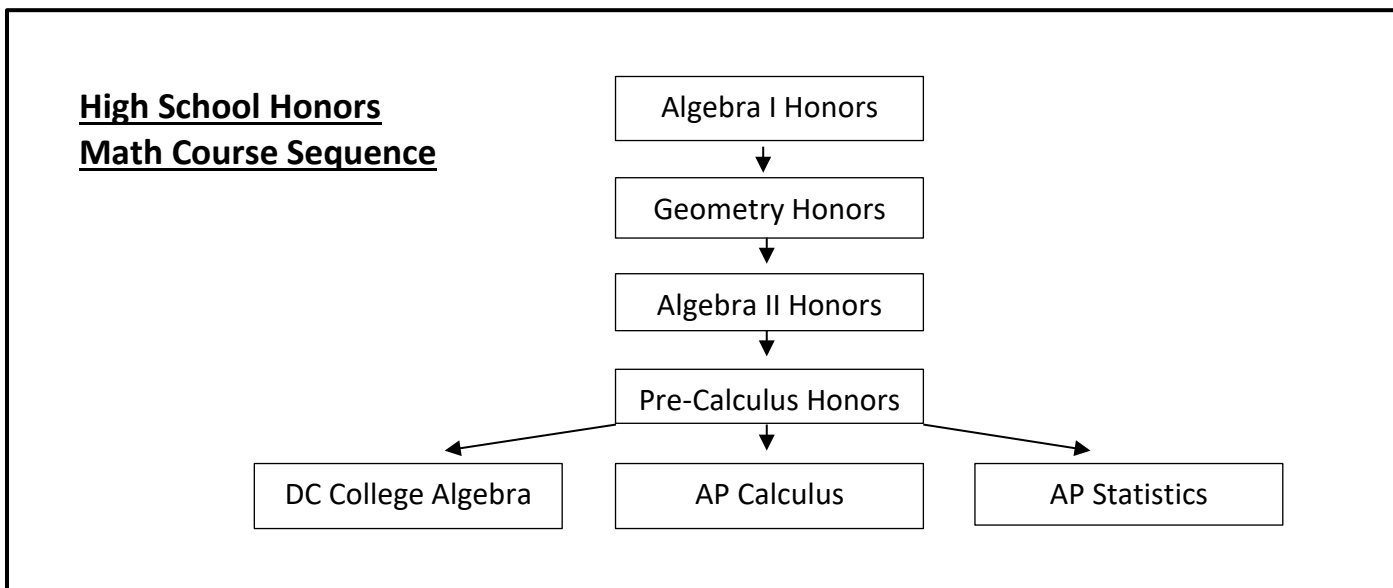
English Language Arts & Reading Course Sequence Options

6th Grade	6 th Grade ELAR	6 th Grade ELAR Honors
7th Grade	↓ 7 th Grade ELAR	↓ 7 th Grade ELAR Honors
8th Grade	↓ 8 th Grade ELAR	↓ 8 th Grade ELAR Honors

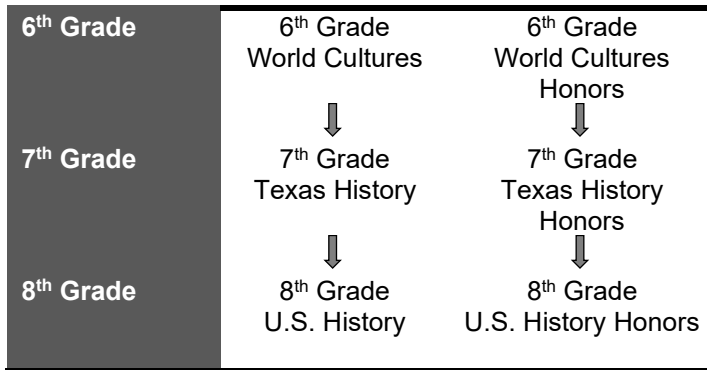
Math Course Sequence Options

Honors 6th and 7th grade Math courses are accelerated to combine 6th – 8th grade TEKS over two years in order for students to enroll in Algebra I Honors in 8th grade. This course sequence is very difficult and prior math grades and STAAR scores are important to consider. Students are not able to jump to another sequence without counselor and administrative approval.

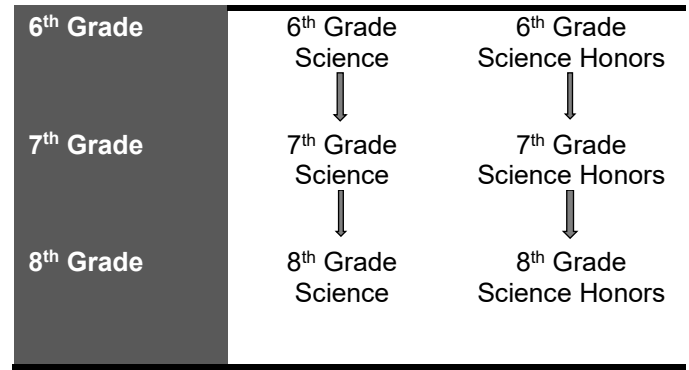
6th Grade	6 th Grade Math	6 th Grade Math Honors
7th Grade	↓ 7 th Grade Math	↓ 7 th Grade Math Honors
8th Grade	↓ 8 th Grade Math or 8 th grade Math Honors	↓ Algebra I Honors High School Credit



Social Studies Course Sequence Options



Science Course Sequence Options



TESTING

STAAR (State Assessments of Academic Readiness)

State testing consists of assessments in the academic core areas– Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Reading/Writing.

Students enrolled in high school Algebra I Honors must meet standard on the End of Course (EOC) exam which is also a required element for high school graduation.

ADVANCED ACADEMICS

GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

Middle school students identified as GT may be served through Honors class sections of core academic subjects. Honors and GT students may frequently be in the same class section. GT students will receive additional differentiation through the use of instructional techniques and curriculum options including, but not limited to, cross-curricular projects and units of deeper study. Unless approved for a temporary furlough (one grading period or shorter), students must take at least one advanced course to remain in the ROISD GT Program. See the ROISD GT Handbook for additional details. If students are removed from an Honors course, they will be furloughed.

HONORS COURSES

What are Honors courses?

Honors courses are academically rigorous classes designed to challenge students and prepare them for advanced coursework, such as Dual Credit or Advanced Placement (AP) courses. While Honors classes help build the skills needed for future advanced studies, they are not required for enrollment in AP courses. These classes often include more problem solving for real-world application, analytical and critical thinking. Enrollment in Honors courses is flexible. Students may choose to take one, several, or all of their core subjects at the Honors level.

Is Honors courses right for my student? (For more information, see Red Oak ISD Grading Manual)

A student successful in Honors courses typically

- will have experienced success in related coursework.
- is interested in the subject.
- works to develop and maintain good study skills and habits.
- plans and works ahead on long term projects.

- asks questions and participates in class.
- asks for assistance when needed.
- carefully considers time commitments and balances academic load with family life or outside commitments.
- perseveres when faced with challenging material.

What are the requirements for placement in Honors courses?

Since Honors courses help prepare students for future AP and/or Dual Credit courses, ROISD supports the College Board’s statement: “The College Board is committed to the principle that all students deserve an opportunity to participate in rigorous and academically challenging courses and programs. All students who are willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum should be considered for admission to AP courses.” For optimum success, it is recommended that student meet a minimum of two (2) of following guidelines.

Honors Course Enrollment Guidelines:

Honors English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR):

- STAAR scores that show Meets grade level standard in Reading
- A final grade in the last ELAR course of 90 or higher (if Honors, 80 or higher)
- Teacher recommendation
-

Honors Math:

- STAAR scores that show Meets grades level standard in Mathematics
- A final grade in the last math course of 90 or higher (if Honors, 80 or higher)
- Teacher recommendation
-

Honors Science:

- STAAR scores that show Meets grade level standard in Mathematics
- A final grade in the last science course taken of 90 or higher (if Honors, 80 or higher)
- Teacher recommendation
-

Honors Social Studies:

- STAAR scores that show Meets grade level standard in Reading
- A final grade in the last social studies course taken of 90 or higher (if Honors, 80 or higher)
- Teacher recommendation

Once enrolled in an Honors course, can a student get a schedule change?

Once enrolled in an Honors course, a student may only request a schedule change with permission from the school principal. A conference including the student, parent, teacher, counselor, and campus administrator will be held to make a determination regarding the student’s request. Schedule changes will generally not be permitted mid-semester.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSEWORK TAKEN PRIOR TO ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL

ROISD provides opportunities for students to take high school-level coursework prior to starting the 9th grade. These courses are equivalent in rigor to courses taken at Red Oak High School, and students will be held to any state testing requirements associated with the course. High School courses taken in middle school are the beginning of a student’s official high school transcript and care should be taken to select coursework that is appropriate to the student’s maturity and academic readiness. High school courses taken prior to the 9th grade do begin to accumulate Grade Points towards the high school Grade Point Average (GPA).

GRADE POINT STRUCTURE

Red Oak High School employs a weighted grading system. Generally, classes with more rigor and classes that require more outside work receive a higher number of points on the grading scale. Grades used for computing the GPA shall be converted to grade points in accordance with a specific structure.

Senate Bill 1191 requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a uniform grade point structure for all Texas districts. Once the updated guidelines are released, they will be incorporated into the course catalog.

CLASS RANKING

Class ranking will be determined by the grade point structure.

COURSES THAT DO NOT COUNT TOWARD GPA

In a number of cases, courses will count as credit toward graduation but the grades from those courses will not be included in the student's high school GPA calculations. The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by:

- Credit by examination, with or without prior instruction
- Summer school
- Credit recovery
- Distance learning credit
- Credit for which a pass/fail grade was given
- Credit for courses not recognized by TEA
- Credit awarded in a non-accredited instructional setting
- Courses earned as an aide (office, counselor, etc.)

INFORMATION FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT

HELP FOR COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS

College is affordable, and planning is essential. For information about careers after high school as well as college planning (admissions and financial aid), check out these important websites.

Career Planning Help

- www.collegefortexans.com - Everything a Texan needs to know about preparing for, applying for, and paying for college or technical school
- www.texasgearup.com - Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEARUP) has information for students and parent by grade level.
- www.collegenet.com - An internet college search and admission process provider; includes scholarship information
- www.collegeview.com - Explore careers, colleges, and financial aid
- <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> - Aids in the college search by containing very detailed information
- www.mynextmove.org - Career search tools
- www.collegeboard.com - Has a lot of useful information and is also where you can sign up to take the SAT
- www.act.org - Has a lot of useful information and is also where you sign up to take the ACT Career Exploration Information
- www.careeronestop.org - Allows investigation of careers with detailed information
- www.mappingyourfuture.org - Planning a career, selecting a school, and paying for school
- www.mappingyourfuture.org/espanol - Same as above in Spanish
- www.careersandcolleges.com - General information for college-bound students
- www.theprincetonreview.com - General college information • www.aacc.nche.edu - American Association of Community Colleges
- www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX - Common application for Texas colleges and universities Financial Aid and Scholarships
- www.everychanceeverytexan.org - Information including The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar (under "Texas Schools Info")
- www.aie.org - Adventures in Education (AIE) is a site for college and career planning with monthly calendars
- www.fastweb.com - A scholarship and grant search site
- www.gocollege.com - General information for college scholarships
- www.college-scholarships.com - Free college scholarship and financial aid searches, SAT and ACT test preparation tips, and listing of colleges
- www.texascollegeandcareer.org - Planning a career, selecting a school, scholarships, SAT and ACT practice tests
- www.edudaris.com - college readiness and scholarship planning

In addition, Red Oak ISD is pleased to partner with many postsecondary institutions, including:

- Texas State Technical College
- Navarro College
- East Texas A&M University
- Tarleton State University

Please speak with a Counselor for information about student opportunities through these partnerships.

6th – 8th GRADE COURSE INFORMATION

Discipline	6 th Grade Courses	7 th Grade Courses	8 th Grade Courses
English Language Arts/Reading (ELAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade ELAR 6th Grade ELAR Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Grade ELAR 7th Grade ELAR Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade ELAR 8th Grade ELAR Honors
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade Math 6th Grade Math Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Grade Math 7th Grade Math Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade Math 8th Grade Math Honors Algebra I – Honors* †
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade World Cultures 6th Grade World Cultures Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Grade Texas History 7th Grade Texas History Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade U.S. History 8th Grade U.S. History Honors
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade Science 6th Grade Science Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Grade Science 7th Grade Science Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade Science 8th Grade Science Honors
Required Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Physical Education/Health, or Pre-Athletics/Health Leadworthy (1 semester) Health (1semester) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th/8th Physical Education/Health, or Athletics/Health or Cheerleading*/Health or Drill Team*/Health or Dance I†/Health College and Career Readiness (1 semester) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education, or Athletics- Boys (Football, Basketball, Soccer, Track/Field*), or Athletics- Girls (Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Track/Field*), or Tennis or Cheerleading* or Drill Team* or Dance I †
Electives <i>Unless otherwise noted, courses are a full year. Please be aware that some courses may not be available to all students due to scheduling conflicts and available space.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Art Band: Beginning Band Choir Civil Air Patrol Dance I LeadWorthy Theatre Arts Language Science* Outdoor Education Photography I Physical Education Pre-Athletics Student Council* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art – Drawing Art - Painting Athletics- Boys (Football, Basketball, Soccer, Track/Field *) Athletics- Girls (Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Track/Field *) Athletics- Tennis Band Cheerleading* Choir Civil Air Patrol College and Career Exploration Dance Design & Modeling Robotics (PLTW) – 1 sem. Graphic Design –1 sem. Introduction to Journalism Language Science* Outdoor Education – 1 sem. Photography I – 1 sem. Photography II – 1 sem. Physical Education Student Council* Theater Arts Yearbook * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Art Art – Drawing Art – Painting Athletics- Boys (Football, Basketball, Soccer, Track/Field *) Athletics- Girls (Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Track/Field *) Athletics- Tennis Band Cheerleading* Choir Civil Air Patrol Computer Science Fundamentals - 1 year HS credit Dance Design & Modeling Robotics (PLTW) – 1 sem. Graphic Design –1 sem. Introduction to Journalism Language Science* Outdoor Education – 1 sem. Photography I – 1 sem. Photography II – 1 sem. Physical Education Principles of Arts/AV Tech † Principles of Human Services † Spanish I Honors* † Spanish II Honors* † Student Council* Theater Yearbook *

* Courses require try-outs, auditions, Counselor approval, or other departmental selection process

† Courses have high school credit and will count toward graduation requirements and GPA. Some Spanish classes will have specific prerequisites and guidelines. Check with your counselors for details and understanding of these courses.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Core Academic Courses

English Language Arts and Reading Grades 6-8

English Language Arts and Reading places an emphasis on reading a variety of texts, using writing conventions, and mastering vocabulary. Multiple forms and genres of reading and writing are included. Each student is challenged to read a variety of texts such as poetry, drama, informational, narrative, expository, and other types of texts.

English Language Arts and Reading – Honors Grades 6-8

These ELAR courses are designed to begin an advanced study of literature for academically talented students. In addition to the content of the grade level ELAR class, further emphasis on SAT vocabulary, additional reading expectations, and meaningful projects are a part of the Pre-AP course. Students use higher level thinking skills to analyze as well as compare and contrast literature to increase their comprehension of text. Close reading and annotation techniques are built upon each year for literature analysis.

Note: Honors and Honors/GT students may be in the same class section. GT students will receive additional differentiation using instructional techniques and curriculum options.

Mathematics Grades: 6-8

Students will build an understanding of numbers and problem solving through a variety of topics. When possible, students will apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace. Math 6 students learn mathematical operations with integers, fractions, and decimals, and learn to solve one-step equations. In Math 7 students learn mathematical operations with positive and negative rational numbers and learn to solve two-step equations. In Math 8 students deepen their understanding of rational and irrational numbers and learn to solve multi-step equations with variables on both sides.

Mathematics – Honors

Grades: 6-8

Some middle school students may be prepared to study mathematics at an accelerated rate. Certain criteria will need to be met for students to enroll in the course for Math 6 Honors. Red Oak's Honors mathematics courses in middle school provide students with both acceleration and enrichment. The Honors math courses in 6th and 7th grades cover three years of math content:

- Math 6 Honors includes all the 6th grade TEKS and half of the 7th grade TEKS.
- Math 7 Honors includes the other half of the 7th grade TEKS and all of the 8th grade TEKS. (These students take the 8th Grade Math STAAR.)
- This path prepares students for Algebra I Honors in 8th grade. This Algebra I Honors course in middle school is aligned to the high school course and is part of the student's permanent high school transcript.

Algebra I – Honors

Grade: 8

High school credit: 1

Prerequisite: Students must have completed Math 6 and 7 Honors to enroll in this class. Students must have earned a grade of at least 80 in the prior grade level of math Honors. In addition, students must score Level III Advanced on the prior grade level Mathematics state assessment.

Algebra I is a study in the beginning algebraic concepts and techniques used in solving for unknowns. This course deals with basic number concepts in solving problems through simplifying polynomials, radicals, and algebraic functions, the solution of quadratic equations and the application of algebraic properties.

Science

Grades 6-8

These courses include process-oriented instruction in various scientific disciplines. Students will participate in laboratory investigations, data analyses, and inquiry-based activities. Each grade includes content from across scientific disciplines; however, much of the content focus in grade 6 is on physical sciences, much of the content focus in grade 7 is on organisms and the environment, and much of the content focus in grade 8 is on earth and space science. Human sexuality is included in 7th grade science topics; parents will receive opt-out information prior to instruction in this area. During grade 8, students also review and integrate the concepts learned over grades 6-8.

Science – Honors

Grades 6-8

In addition to grade-level expectations described above, the students will be expected to perform at high academic levels. The intent of the challenging content is to prepare students for future Pre-AP and AP scientific studies in high school.

Social Studies

Grades 6-8

Throughout social studies courses, students build a foundation in history; geography; economics; government; citizenship; culture; science, and society; and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level or course, enables students to understand the importance of patriotism, function in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation. Each grade level provides a unique focus. In grade 6, students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. In grade 7, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. In grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction.

Social Studies – Honors

Grades 6-8

In addition to grade-level expectations described above, the Pre-AP course will emphasize more detail and do deeper analysis of concepts. These courses are designed to prepare students for future Pre-AP and AP coursework in high school.

Physical Education

Grade level: 6

Course length: 1 year

General physical education for boys and girls will develop physical fitness and the learning of skills. The program provides each student with opportunities to develop skill and understanding in a variety of sports activities, with daily exercise designed to help students develop and maintain physical fitness for their age. Sixth grade students must select either Physical Education or Pre-Athletics.

Pre-Athletics

Grade level: 6

Course length: 1 year

This class will be used to teach basic skills needed in athletics at our schools. The curriculum will include all sports offered in grades 7-8. Coaches will teach these students flexibility, agility, technical skills, and strength and conditioning drills that will get them better prepared for 7th grade athletics. This course may serve as a substitute for the 6th grade Physical Education requirement. Sixth grade students must select either Physical Education or Pre-Athletics.

Health (Integrated into Physical Education)

Grade level: 6 and 7

Course length: 1 semester

In health education, students acquire the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults and learn about behaviors in which they should and should not participate. The content is divided into four strands: health information, health behaviors, influencing factors, and personal and interpersonal skills.

Physical Education

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 year

General physical education for boys and girls will develop physical fitness and the learning of skills. Each student has opportunities to develop in a variety of sports activities, with daily exercise designed to help maintain physical fitness for their age. The student is evaluated based on skill, knowledge and strategy, rules, history, and terminology in each sport, and behavior in terms of participation, health, and safety practices. Suiting out and daily participation is imperative. All 8th graders must choose either Physical Education or a substitute course if requirement was not met in 7th grade. See course descriptions for substitution options.

6th Grade Electives Courses*

* Some electives courses are required. See course description for details.

Language Science

Grades: 6-8

Course length: 2 years

Prerequisite: Specialized Learning Approval

This elective course is designed to provide specialized instruction for students with Dyslexia.

Introduction to Art

Grade level: 6

Course length: 1 year

This course will explore visual art through both appreciation and creation of artwork. Students will work to develop visual art skills including drawing, painting, and other techniques. No prior experience is necessary.

Band: Beginning Band

Grade level: 6

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Instrument placement audition; no prior experience required.

This introductory performance group will focus on the development of instrument technique, musical literacy, rehearsal skills, and group performance. Students will complete an instrument placement process managed by ROMS Band directors at the end of the preceding school year. Beginning Band students will be scheduled in like-instrument classes (Flute, Double Reeds, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion). All Beginning Band students will participate in 3 formal performances and a Solo Contest outside of the school day.

Beginning Choir

Grade Level: 6 (0 years' experience)

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Section placement audition; no prior experience required

Students in beginning choir will be introduced to proper singing techniques, basic music theory, sight reading, and performance skills.

Theatre Arts I

Grade: 6-8

Course length: 1 year

This course serves as an introductory overview for Theatre Arts. Students will learn basic acting skills, as well as techniques and history of Theatre. No prior experience is necessary.

Dance I

Grade Level: 6-8 (0 years' experience)

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: No prior experience required

Beginning- to intermediate-level students learn about and practice various forms of dance. Students are required to provide their own course-specified attire and supplies. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Leadworthy

Grade level: 6

Course length: 1 semester

This is a required elective. Students develop critical, life-changing leadership skills including taking personal responsibility, self-expression and communication, and making good decisions when problems arise.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Grade level: 6-8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisites: None for first year; departmental selection process for second year

Requirements: \$31 fee; student must have a Battle Dress Uniform (not included in fee) (information will be provided on how to get uniforms)

Civil Air Patrol is an innovative program that enhances a student's self-discipline and sense of team and teaches the concepts of servant leadership. The cadet program has four parts for each promotion: leadership, character development, aerospace education, and physical training. This class includes an after-school program if the cadet wishes to be promoted. Students must meet haircuts and grooming standards and wear military style uniforms once each week.

Outdoor Education

Grades: 6-8

Course Length: 1 semester

Students are taught life-long skills by using an integrated curriculum of science, math, writing, critical thinking skills, and computer technology. The focus is on outdoor activities such as hunter education, angler education, CPR/first aid skills, survival skills, archery, and camping.

Photography I

Grade level: 6-8

Course length: 1 semester

Photography I is a digital photography class that gives students a background and basic history of photography and teaches them the parts and functions of a digital camera. The course focuses on techniques such as the rule of thirds, perspective,

and lighting to create a photograph that the student can be proud of. It is recommended that students have a digital camera but it is not required.

7th – 8th Grade Electives Courses*

* Some electives courses are required. See course description for details.

App Creators

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

This *Project Lead the Way Gateway* course will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society. This class is an advanced technology class.

Introduction to Art

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 year

This course will explore visual art through both appreciation and creation of artwork. Students will work to develop visual art skills including drawing, painting, and other techniques. No prior experience is necessary.

Art: Introduction to Drawing

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

Prerequisites: Introduction to Art

This course focuses on building fundamental drawing skills using a variety of techniques and mediums.

Art: Introduction to Painting

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

Prerequisites: Introduction to Art, Introduction to Drawing

Nurture your budding creativity in our welcoming painting class. Designed for young artists, we'll explore the wonders of painting, helping you create with joy and confidence.

Art: Intermediate Drawing

Grade level: 8

Prerequisite: Intro to Drawing,

Course Length: 1 Semester

Description: This course focuses on expanding fundamental drawing skills using a variety of techniques and mediums.

Art: Intermediate Painting

Grade level: 8

Prerequisite: Intro to Drawing,

Course Length: 1 Semester

Description: This course focuses on expanding fundamental painting skills using a variety of techniques and mediums.

Advanced Art

High School credit: 1

High School GPA Level: I

Grade level: 8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Intro to Art and Intro to Painting or Intro to Drawing

Description: Students will continue to explore, appreciate, and analyze the visual arts using the elements and principles of design. Students will be required to maintain a portfolio of class projects as well as independent studies throughout the year. The intent of this course is to prepare serious art students who later intend to pursue AP Studio Art in high school. Advanced students will have to submit portfolios and teacher recommendations for advanced high school placement

Athletics

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Departmental selection process

Most, but not all, athletics are on the interscholastic competitive level; students are placed in these classes based on tryouts. The following sports are offered: football, volleyball, basketball, tennis, cross-country, and track and field. Practices are scheduled before and after school, in addition to one class period. Track also meets before/after school on a regular basis. Medical exam/physical required. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Graphic Design

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

This course introduces students to the field of audio/visual technology and graphic design. Students will prepare for success in high school and college/career planning by exploring the field of creative computer technology applications such as graphic design and editing.

Band – Honors Band (Varsity Band)

Grade level: 7 or 8 (1-2 years' experience)

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Audition process

The Honors Band consists of accomplished musicians and leaders in the band program who are challenged to perform some of the most artistic literature available for middle school band. Students will perform several times throughout the year including formal concerts, assemblies, and off-campus tours. Each spring this elite competitive ensemble participates in UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest as well as at other festival performances. Though members of all three bands are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band, it is a requirement for members of Honors Band. All Honors Band students participate in Solo & Ensemble Contests. This class requires time outside of the school day to remain enrolled.

Band – Symphonic Band (Non-Varsity)

Grade level: 7 or 8 (1-2 years' experience)

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Audition process

The Symphonic II Band is dedicated to continued development of quality students and its focus is primarily on the development of individual instrument technique, the maturation of rehearsal skills, and the academic success of its members. This competitive ensemble participates in the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest. Capable students are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band and participate in Solo & Ensemble Contests. This class also requires time outside of the school day to remain enrolled.

Band – Intermediate Percussion

Grade level: 7 or 8 (1-2 years' experience)

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Audition process, previous percussion experience required

Intermediate Percussion students will get specialized instruction in all types of percussion performance and are the percussion section for either Symphonic Band or Concert Band.

Intermediate Percussion students will participate as a part of either the Symphonic Band or Concert Band in the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest. Capable students are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band. All Intermediate Percussion students participate in Solo & Ensemble Contests. This class requires time outside of the school day to remain enrolled.

Band – Advanced Percussion

Grade level: 7 or 8 (1-2 years' experience)

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Audition process, previous percussion experience required

Advanced Percussion students will get specialized instruction in all types of percussion performance and are the percussion section for Honors Band. Students in this course will perform several times throughout the year including formal concerts, assemblies, and off-campus tours. Advanced Percussion students will participate as a part of the Honors Band in the UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest. Though members of all three bands are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band, it is a requirement for Advanced Percussion students. All Advanced Percussion students participate in Solo & Ensemble Contests. This class requires time outside of the school day to remain enrolled.

Band - Aide

Grade level: 8 (2 years' experience)

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Director approval

Band Aides are selected from members of the Honors Band who seek to help the band program during an additional elective (enrolled concurrently with Honors Band). These students will assist directors with band classes as rehearsal assistants or with organizational tasks as needed.

Tenor/Bass Choir

Grades: 7-8 (0 years' experience)

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Men's Choir is a beginning level choir designed to introduce singers to proper singing techniques and to become more comfortable with their voices. They also learn basic music theory, sight-reading and work on concert and performance repertoire. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled.

Intermediate Tenor/Bass Choir

Grades: 7-8 (1-2 years' experience)

Prerequisite- 1 year in Choir program, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Intermediate Tenor/Bass Choir is an intermediate level choir designed to reinforce proper singing techniques, basic theory knowledge and improve the singer's vocal abilities. Students are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble and All-Region. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled.

Advanced Tenor/Bass Choir

Grades: 7-8 (1-2 years' experience)

Prerequisite: 1 year in Choir program, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Advanced Tenor/Bass Choir is made up of students who have proved that their vocal abilities and rehearsal techniques are up to the task of learning more challenging music. All students are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble and All-Region. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled.

Treble Choir

Grades: 7-8 (0 years' experience)

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Treble Choir is a beginning level choir designed to introduce singers to proper singing techniques and to become more comfortable with their voices. They also learn basic music theory, sight-reading and work on concert and performance repertoire. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled.

Intermediate Treble Choir

Grades: 7-8 (1-2 years' experience)

Prerequisite: 1 year in Choir program, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Intermediate Treble Choir is an intermediate level choir designed to reinforce proper singing techniques, basic theory knowledge and improve the singer's vocal abilities. Students are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble and All-Region. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled.

Advanced Treble Choir

Grades: 7-8 (1-2 years' experience)

Prerequisite: 1 year in Choir program, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

The Advanced Treble Choir is made up of students who have proved that their vocal abilities and rehearsal techniques are up to the task of learning more challenging music. All students are required to participate in Solo and Ensemble and All-Region. This class requires time outside of school to remain enrolled.

Cheerleading

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 year (students must participate in both semesters)

Prerequisite: Departmental selection process

Participation in cheerleading is considered an extra-curricular activity, and it requires not only the ability to show spirit and be an example for our school, but also time outside of the class period. Cheerleading activities are varied throughout the year and include performances at both football and basketball season halftime. Tryouts are held during the spring and are open to any 6th or 7th grader who wishes to be in cheerleading the following year. The week of summer Cheer Camp is mandatory, and practice will be held during the school year. Participation in a competition is a requirement. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Grade level: 6-8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisites: None for first year; departmental selection process for second year

Requirements: \$31 fee; student must have a Battle Dress Uniform (not included in fee) (information will be provided on how to get uniforms)

Civil Air Patrol is an innovative program that enhances a student's self-discipline and sense of team and teaches the concepts of servant leadership. The cadet program has four parts for each promotion: leadership, character development, aerospace education, and physical training. This class includes an after-school program if the cadet wishes to be promoted. Students must meet haircut and grooming standards and wear military style uniforms once each week.

College and Career Readiness

Grade level: 7

Course length: 1 semester

This is a required elective in 7th grade.

This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and development of a college and career achievement plan. Students will use software or other tools to explore areas of personal interest and build future high school plans aligned to chosen career paths.

Computer Science Fundamentals

Grade level: 8

Course length: 1 year of HS credit

This *Project Lead the Way* Gateway course will allow students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Throughout the

unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

Dance 1

Grade Level: 6-8 (0 years' experience)

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: No prior experience required

Beginning- to intermediate-level students learn about and practice various forms of dance. Students are required to provide their own course-specified attire and supplies. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Dance 2

Grades: 7-8 (1 years' experience)

Prerequisite: Dance 1

Course Length: 1 year

Intermediate to Advanced-level students learn about and practice various forms of dance. Students are required to provide their own course-specified attire and supplies. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

HighSteppers (Drill Team) 1

Grades: 7-8 (0-year experience)

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

Participation in the Hawkette Highstepper Drill Team is considered an extracurricular activity. It requires marching ability, dancing skills, and required rehearsals, activities, and events outside the school day. Performances include halftime at sporting events, parades, and other community events. Tryouts are open to any 6th or 7th grade student and are held each spring. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

HighSteppers (Drill Team) 2

Grades: 8 (1 year experience)

Prerequisite: Departmental Selection Process, Director Approval

Course Length: 1 year

Participation in the Hawkette Highstepper Drill Team is considered an extracurricular activity. It requires marching ability, dancing skills, and required rehearsals, activities, and events outside the school day. Performances include halftime at sporting events, parades, and other community events. Tryouts are open to any 6th or 7th grade student

and are held each spring. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Advanced Dance

High School Credit: 1

Grades: 8 (1 year experience)

Prerequisite: Introductory Dance

Course Length: 1 year

Continuation of dance skills and activities are conducted at a higher level and faster pace. Students are required to provide their own course-specified attire and supplies. This course counts as one full year of High School Fine Arts Credit and can also serve as partial fulfillment of the Middle School P. E. requirement.

Health

Grade level: 7

Course length: 1 semester

This is a required elective in 7th grade. In health education, students acquire the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults and learn about behaviors in which they should and should not participate. The content is divided into four strands: health information, health behaviors, influencing factors, and personal and interpersonal skills.

Introduction to Journalism

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 year

This course will focus on important journalistic skills including news, features, sports, opinion, review, and headline writing for online publication, photojournalism, and broadcasting.

Language Science

Grades: 6-8

Course length: 2 years

Prerequisite: Specialized Learning Approval

This elective course is designed to provide specialized instruction for students with Dyslexia.

Outdoor Education

Grades: 6-8

Course Length: 1 semester

Students are taught life-long skills by using an integrated curriculum of science, math, writing, critical thinking skills, and computer technology. The focus is on outdoor activities such as hunter education, angler education, CPR/first aid skills, survival skills, archery, and camping.

Photography I

Grade level: 6-8

Course length: 1 semester

Photography I is a digital photography class that gives students a background and basic history of photography and teaches them the parts and functions of a digital camera. The course focuses on techniques such as the rule of thirds, perspective, and lighting to create a photograph that the student can be proud of. It is recommended that students have a digital camera but it is not required.

Photography II

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

Prerequisite: Photography I

Photography II will build upon skills from Photography I and expose the student to the uses of photographs in print media, journalism, and other multimedia software programs.

Principles of Arts, A/V Technology and Communication

High School credit: 1

Grade level: 8

Course length: 1 year

This course will introduce students to careers in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications career cluster. Students will develop an understanding of the multifaceted career opportunities in this cluster and the knowledge, skills, and educational requirements for those careers. It covers information related to animation, commercial photography, graphic design, and audio/video production. Primarily, the students will ultimately create a video but will also incorporate all of the other areas by creating promotional/ advertising materials for their video.

Principles of Human Services

High School credit: 1

Grade level: 8

The Principles of Health Science course is designed to provide an overview of the therapeutic, diagnostic, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development systems of the health care industry.

Robotics Design and Modeling

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

This *Project Lead The Way* Gateway course focuses on the design process and developing an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in life. Students are then challenged and

empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit in concrete design. Students will also examine a variety of algorithms for the control of autonomous mobile robots, exploring issues such as robotic behaviors, sensing, navigation, planning, and localization. The course will also focus on the development of a robot to perform the necessary functions as required by national competitions.

Spanish I Honors

High School credit: 1

Grade: 8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language. Emphasis is placed on acquiring basic listening, writing, reading, and speaking skills. Students become actively involved in the appreciation of the culture, customs, and geography of Hispanic countries. Basic grammar, present, regular preterit, and substitute future tenses are studied.

Spanish II Honors

High School credit: 1

Grade: 8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Spanish I or native speaker with qualifying criteria

Spanish II improves the listening, speaking, and writing skills begun in Spanish I. It provides a closer look at the culture and customs of Spanish-speaking countries, while continuing to study grammar. Students also study some of the most popular Spanish artists.

Theatre Arts I

Grade: 6-8 (0-year experience)

Course length: 1 year

This course serves as an introductory overview for Theatre Arts. Students will learn basic acting skills, as well as techniques and history of Theatre. No prior experience is necessary.

Theatre Arts II

Grade Placement: 7-8 (1 year experience)

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts I, or Intro to Theatre Arts
The objective of this course is to provide the student with a general overview of all the different areas in theater and to create an appreciation for live theater. Course units include voice and diction, improvisation, pantomime, acting, theater history, stage make-up, and technical theater.

Theatre Arts III

Grade Placement: 8 (2 years' experience)
Credit: 1, High School Theatre Arts I Credit
Prerequisite: Theatre Arts II, or Advanced Theatre Production
ROHS Number: 36213
Credit: 1
PEIMS TH1 03250100
The objective of this course is to provide the student with an advanced overview of all the different areas in theater and to create an appreciation for live theater. Course units include voice and diction, improvisation, pantomime, acting, theater history, stage make-up, and technical theater.

Introduction to Technical Theatre

Grade Placement: 8 (2 years' experience)
Credit: 1, High School Theatre Arts I Credit
Prerequisite: Theatre Arts I and Theatre Arts II, Advanced Theatre Production, Application Needed
ROHS Number: 36213
Credit: 1
PEIMS TH1 03250100
Technical theatre is a class for the creative, motivated student seeking knowledge of stagecraft, lighting, sound, costumes, makeup, and theatre production. Skill focus is on: safety, literary analysis, set design and construction, sound design, light design, props, makeup and costume, publicity, and house management.

Advanced Theatre Production

Grade Placement: 7-8 (1 year experience)
Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Theatre Arts I, Yearly Audition Required
This course continues the study of theatre established in Theatre Arts. It is designed to further investigate the area of acting. Instructional units include classical styles, children's theatre, play writing, stylized make-up and theater awareness. Emphasis will be placed on acting and directing; all projects will be performance-oriented. Specified sections will require that students audition successfully to be a part of One Act Play, which requires time outside of the school day to remain enrolled.

Yearbook

Grade level: 7 or 8
Course length: 1 year
Prerequisite: Departmental selection process via application
Students communicate in a variety of forms such as print, digital, or online media for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written and/or visual communications on a regular basis, carefully examining their copy for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English. In addition, students will apply journalistic ethics and standards. Assignments are individual and require lengthy attention from the student.



Red Oak ISD Middle School Guidelines for Honors Courses

What are the Honors courses?

Preparing and motivating middle school and high school students for AP classes and college-level work must begin before they reach middle school. The earlier students acquire analytical thinking and communication skills, the more likely they are to succeed in academically challenging courses such as AP. Therefore, ROISD offers Honors courses beginning with grade 6. Although these classes are not prerequisites for AP courses, they are highly recommended.

What background is needed for students to succeed in the Honors courses?

Students must be dedicated to completing a more rigorous course of study. The keys to success are maturity, motivation, self-discipline, and academic preparation. In the Honors classes, students are encouraged to ask good questions, to acquire deep understanding, to apply comprehensive analytical techniques, and to construct good written and verbal arguments.

What are the considerations for Honors courses and high school credit classes in ROISD?

While honors courses are offered at the middle school, students and parents should strongly consider the following criteria as they are planning for their child's schedules:

- A passing score of 85 or higher in general classes, 80 or higher in Honors classes from the previous year in the content area that Honors is being considered
- A rating of meets or masters on the previous year's STAAR test in the content area that Honors is being considered where applicable
- Teacher recommendation from the teacher of record in the content from the previous year.
- Parents and students must be willing to review and agree to the Honors course recommendations.

Once a student has reviewed the guidelines, parent and student have agreed to be scheduled into an Honors class(es), students will be reviewed at the end of every six-week period using multiple sources of data to determine continued eligibility. A determination of placement will be made no earlier than the end of the first six-week grading period and no later than the second semester. Removal from Honors classes does not prohibit the student from enrolling in future Honors classes.

What if my child does not meet the ROISD recommendations and I still want my child in Honors/ classes?

Parent Override

In an effort to place students in appropriate level classes, admission criteria have been established for Honors courses. If your child does not meet these requirements, as a parent you may request that admission requirements be waived for your child by completing the Parent Override Form for Admissions to Honors courses. When you submit the Parent Override Form, you must understand that your child must remain in the course for at least one grading period/six weeks. A schedule change can be made at the end of the first six weeks, and no later than the end of the first semester. Schedule changes will only be made with the approval of the principal, counselor, teacher, and parent. The grade earned will appear on the report card and transcript. At the end of each grading period, the student's performance will be evaluated based on the maintenance requirements listed below.

Maintenance

To remain in these courses, students must maintain certain academic standards:

- A student who earns a 69 or below in a six-week grading period will be placed on academic probation.
- If a student earns 69 or below in any two six weeks during the first semester, the student will be placed into the corresponding regular level class. Under extenuating circumstances, the probationary period may be extended if the teacher, parent, and principal are in consensus.
- Students enrolled in these courses should expect high standards and an additional time requirement.
- Students' grades will be monitored during each six-week period and at the end of each six-weeks.

Honor Code

The following honor code will be placed in all Honors course syllabi:

“This class will be conducted under an honor code. All students will be expected to do their own work. Occasionally, students will be given projects or exams that must be completed outside of class. If a student breaks this code, the student may be removed from the course.”

Red Oak ISD

Advanced Program Expectation and Course Agreement

Advanced courses, including Honors courses, provide motivated, college and workforce bound students an opportunity to expand their educational experience beyond the regular program. Honors coursework develops advanced skills and content background to prepare students for the college-level work of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and for the Advanced Placement exams that will be offered in high school. Gifted and Talented (GT) Programs requiring specified admission incorporate Honors and AP strategies as well. At the high school level, these rigorous courses carry weighted credit toward computation of class rank. ROISD instructional program is based on the philosophy that rigorous, academically challenging courses should be available to all students at the middle school level to promote and prepare them for continued educational enrichment and success in high school, college or technical training and beyond.

Students in advanced courses are expected to:

- think critically and analyze, synthesize and manipulate knowledge
- develop successful study skills
- budget time effectively and efficiently and commit to a daily, academic action plan
- engage in scholarly research and employ technology as a tool of research and communication
- extend advanced content area vocabulary
- utilize community, university and industry as resources when applicable
- make global connections between the content and its application to the real world
- select appropriate tools (including technology) for advanced comprehension
- maintain subject-specific portfolios/notebooks when applicable
- commit to this agreement supporting Advanced courses, Pre-AP courses and the program expectations
- complete competition level projects and use higher-level skills when appropriate

Success requires commitment from students, parents/guardians and teachers involved in advanced programs:

- The student agrees to organize his/her efforts and time to successfully complete the course. By signing below, the student understands this agreement and commits to participate in the course for the entire year.
- The parents/guardians consider the course expectations carefully and reach an understanding and agreement with the student concerning the rigor and demands of the course. Parents/guardians agree to support the student's organization and time management to complete course work. Parents/guardians will notify the teacher of any concerns relating to the course requirements or the student's progress. By signing below, parents/guardians understand course expectations and are granting permission for their child to participate in this rigorous course.

The teacher agrees to conduct the course using research-based strategies and content at a pace appropriate to the grade level. The teacher communicates student progress through regularly

- scheduled progress and grade reports. The teacher will provide immediate intervention when needed and will hold a conference with students and parents/guardians regularly regarding progress.

- 6th and 7th or GT/Honors math courses include accelerated content laying the groundwork for success in Algebra I and beyond. It is NOT recommended that students enter the Algebra I Honors or GT/Honors course without the previous years of Honors math course work.

Course Placement: Schedule changes in Honors classes may take place during two windows. The first window is at the end of the first six weeks and the second window is at the end of the first semester. There are exceptions for a schedule change within the first six weeks of school that may be approved by administrators and/or counselors. If a student struggles, various academic supports and interventions will be employed and conferences will be held with an administrator, a teacher, parent/guardian and the student so student progress can be reviewed. At this time, a consensus should be made as to the appropriate support and/or course placement for the second six weeks or the second semester.

Red Oak ISD HONORS COURSE AGREEMENT:

Please check all advanced courses to which you are committing for the 2026-2027 school year and turn into your campus counselor:

Sixth grade:

- ___ ELAR 6 GT/Honors
- ___ Math 6 Honors
- ___ History 6 Honors
- ___ Science 6 Honors

Eighth grade:

- ___ ELAR 8 Honors
- ___ Algebra I Honors
- ___ Math 8 GT/Honors
- ___ History 8 Honors
- ___ Science 8 Honors
- ___ Spanish I and/or II

Seventh grade:

- ___ ELAR 7 GT/Honors
- ___ Math 7 Honors
- ___ History 7 Honors
- ___ Science 7 Honors
- ___ Spanish I

I understand that the above course(s) selected is at least one six weeks or a semester of commitment with monitoring of student progress. I understand that if there is a need, a conference will be held with the administrative team, the parent, and student to discuss progress in the selected courses.

Student PRINTED NAME: _____

Student signature to commit to the course(s)

Date: _____

Parent PRINTED NAME: _____

Parent signature to support student participation:

Date: _____

ROISD PARENT/GUARDIAN OVERRIDE FORM

Student's Name: _____ School Counselor: _____

Please understand that your child does not meet all the criteria for this course; therefore, we are concerned about the likelihood of his or her success in the course. Your signature below indicates that you as the parent wish to place your child in this course, despite ROISD guidelines.

I am requesting that my child be placed in (Course name/level): _____

- It is my understanding that each academic course has certain prescribed essentials or standards which must be met. Extra help beyond that which is given to other students in this class should not be expected.
- I understand that if he/she is not successful, he/she will be reviewed at the end of the first six-week period using multiple sources of data to determine continued eligibility. A determination of placement will be made no later than the end of the first semester and is contingent on space availability. Also, a schedule change for one course may affect several other classes in my child's schedule.

Reason for request: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Phone

Date

A student will not be placed into a non-recommended course if this form has not been completed and returned.

(For School Use Only)

School Counselor Name & Signature

Date Change Made