



# MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVANCED CLASSES PROCESS/CRITERIA

Harrisburg School District provides Advanced Classes at the two Middle Schools in Math, Science, ELA & Social Studies. The criteria and basic information is listed below. **Please contact your 5th grader's classroom teacher by January 19th if you want them to be assessed for possible placement. Placement tests are given on Saturday 1/20 & 1/27 at North Middle School from 8-9:30 am.**

## **Harrisburg Middle School- Advanced Course Expectations & Criteria for 2018-19**

Students electing advanced classes at the Harrisburg Middle Schools should be self-motivated, willing to work at a faster pace, participate actively in class, produce quality work consistently, complete nightly homework and long-term projects, and demonstrate a strong desire to be challenged by the breadth & depth of course content. Maximum daily homework guidelines for advanced courses are 60 minutes for 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 70 for 7<sup>th</sup> graders and 80 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Advanced classes at the Middle School level are designed to meet the needs of high-ability learners who meet the criteria for participation. The content and standards in an advanced class are accelerated by one to two grade levels, the pace of learning is faster, the level of critical thinking and problem-solving is extensive, the students are expected to take on greater responsibility for their learning and the quality of their work products, assignments and assessments will exceed typical grade level expectations.

### **What Makes an Advanced Section Different? What can you Expect?**

Increased depth

Accelerated Content

Sophisticated/Complex Products

Learning the Language, Ethics, Trends and Multiple Perspectives of the Disciplines

Socratic Seminars relative to current topics

Springboard/TCI/FOSS/Pearson Curriculum is implemented with fidelity

Exams/Unit Assessments prepare learners for future AP examinations

Essential Questions frame instruction

Standards expected are one to two years beyond grade level

Students have opportunities for regular Voice and Choice in their learning as they co-create experiences and assessments focused on the academic standards

Students taking Advanced Classes in Middle School can accrue six High School credits in Middle School making it easier for them to take advantage of the AP/Dual Credit Program and the Early College program at HSD High School.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Classes + Algebra, Algebra 2 and Geometry are counted as HS weighted credits**

**Students in advanced sections expected to take four years of core subject areas while in HS.**

**Criteria for Participation:**

Students will need to meet three of the four criteria listed for each course. Their eligibility will be determined yearly.

**Math**

1. 90%+ average for current school work in Math- A or B+ grade & a teacher recommendation
2. Smarter Balance score in Math is rated a 4 or advanced
3. At least two MAP scores at or above the 85%
4. TAG placement- student has been identified as Gifted and Talented

**Reading & Language Arts**

1. 90%+ average for current school work in both Reading & Language Arts- A or B+ grade & a teacher recommendation
2. Smarter Balance score in Reading is rated a 4 or advanced
3. At least two MAP scores at or above 85%
4. TAG placement- student has been identified as Gifted/Talented

**Science**

1. 90%+ average for current school work in Science- A or B+ grade & a teacher recommendation
2. Science Process Placement Score or MAPS Science assessment is 85% +
3. TAG placement- student has been identified as Gifted and Talented
4. Two MAPS Math scores are over 85%

## Social Studies

1. 90%+ average for current school work in Social Studies- A or B+ grade & a teacher recommendation
2. Placement Score on Social Studies assessment meets cut-off of 85%
3. TAG placement- student has been identified as Gifted and Talented
4. Smarter Balance score in Reading is rated a 4 or advanced or two MAP scores over 85%

Teacher Recommendation	1-4 score
A. Meets or exceeds standards for coursework.	
B. Is fully engaged in the learning activities.	
C. Demonstrates a strong desire to be challenged.	
D. Is capable of doing A or B+ work with content a year ahead of current grade level.	

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Laurie Wenger at [laurie.wenger@k12.sd.us](mailto:laurie.wenger@k12.sd.us)