



## **Harrisburg Middle School- Advanced Course/Pre AP Expectations & Criteria for 2024-25**

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. Projects, 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 and align with AP rigor and CollegeBoard Standards.

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 High School weighted credits**

**Students in advanced sections are still 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% within the last year
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% within the last year
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% within the last year

**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% within the last year

See teacher feedback form on next page.

Teacher Recommendation	1-4 score
A. Meets or exceeds standards for coursework. Rarely needs to redo assignments for mastery.	
B. Is fully engaged in the learning activities. Consistently stays on task.	
C. Demonstrates a strong desire to be challenged. Accepts feedback and wants to complete quality work.	
D. Is capable of doing A or B+ work with content a year ahead of current grade level. Student has easily mastered grade level Standards.	

1 - Rarely
2 - Sometimes
3 - Regularly
4 - Always