

Which Is Best for Me? Comparing Courses in 7th and 8th Grade

When making scheduling decisions for the upcoming school year, one question rising 7th and 8th graders ask themselves is, “Should I take an advanced class?” In all courses, students can expect to engage in the material in a variety of ways that encourage application, communication, and collaboration skills. Through the analysis of the material students will develop critical and creative thinking skills.

Below is an overview of the differences between on-level and other coursework available to our middle school students. School counselors are available to answer questions and provide guidance also.

	Advanced, Accelerated, and Compacted Coursework	On-Level Coursework
What courses are offered?	Advanced classes are offered in the areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts. 7th/8th Compacted classes (7th and 8th grade content taught in one year) are offered to 7th graders for math and social studies.	On-level classes are offered in the areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts.
Who should consider this coursework?	Students who have strong background knowledge in the content and are excited to explore the content at a deeper level should consider advanced coursework.	Students who want to learn and explore content in a way that is approachable and age-appropriate, building a strong foundation for future learning, should consider on-level coursework.
How is the content delivered?	Advanced and compacted coursework approaches content beyond on-level expectations. Students explore content at a deeper level and are regularly expected to use their knowledge of the course material to make deeper connections between past and future content. Depending on the course, students may also be expected to work through the content at a faster pace and read material that is at or above grade-level.	Students who enroll in on-level classes can expect to explore the content at a level that is age and grade-appropriate, write and read material that is at or near grade level, and participate in classroom discussion and activities as well as periodic projects.

How do I enroll? As rising 7th and 8th graders, students discuss course selection plans with teachers, parents, and counselors, and then select the appropriate courses in SchoolLinks.