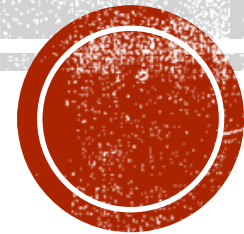
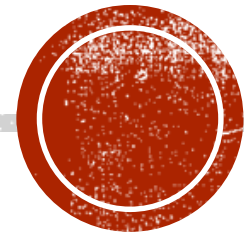


RISING 8TH GRADE AND 9TH GRADE PROGRAM PLANNING



Frequently Asked Questions

7TH TO 8TH
PROGRAM PLANNING
RESOURCES



Program Planning 2020-20201

7th to 8th Grade: *The 2020-2021 Middle School Program of Studies will be available online at www.cbsd.org on January 17th under Parent or Student Resources.* Please refer to the Program of Studies Guide for clarification of course requirements.

January 21 – Program Planning Assembly – Teacher Recommendations, Academic vs. Advanced courses, World Language/Reading Options and Music options for 8th grade will be reviewed. Students must let their Guidance Counselor know if they will be changing their Music situation for 8th grade.

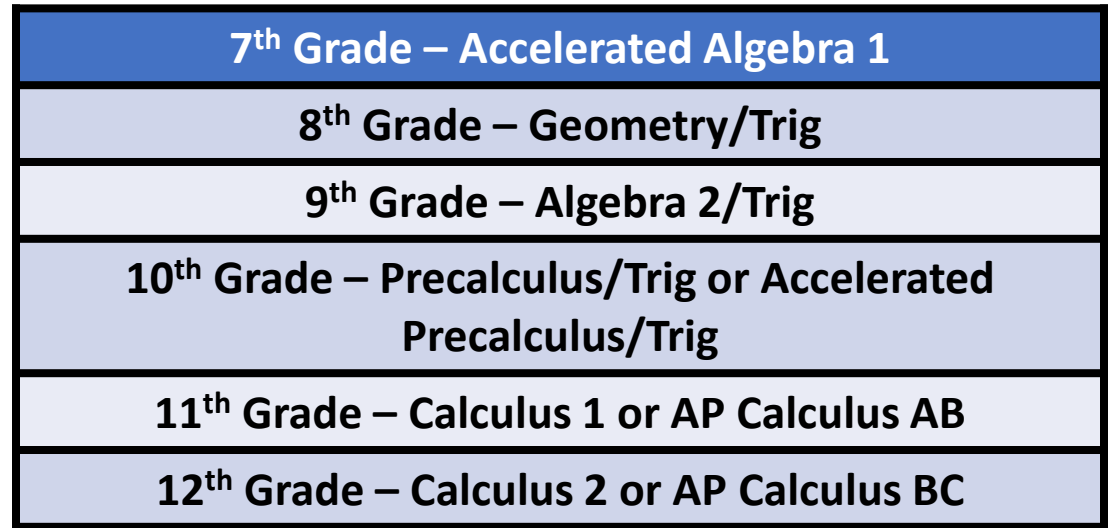
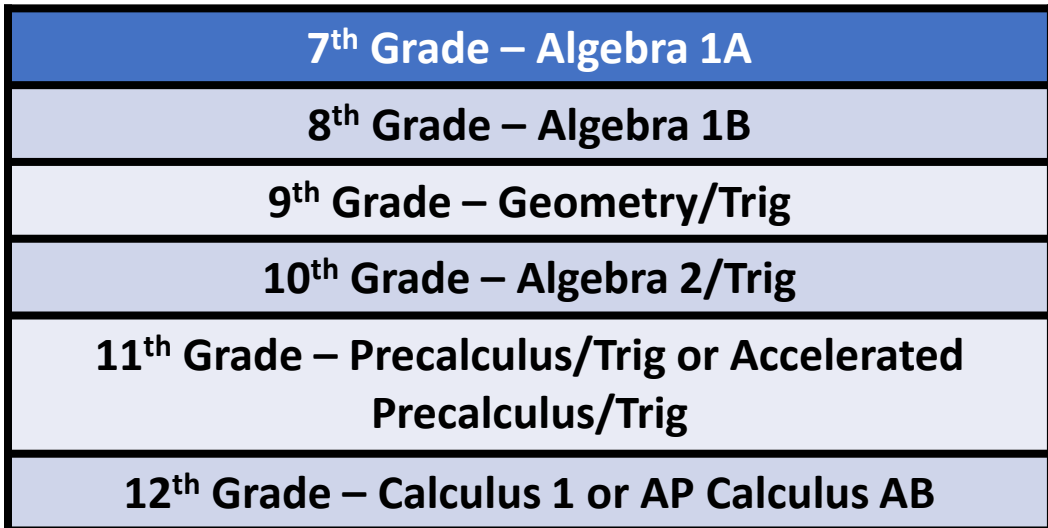
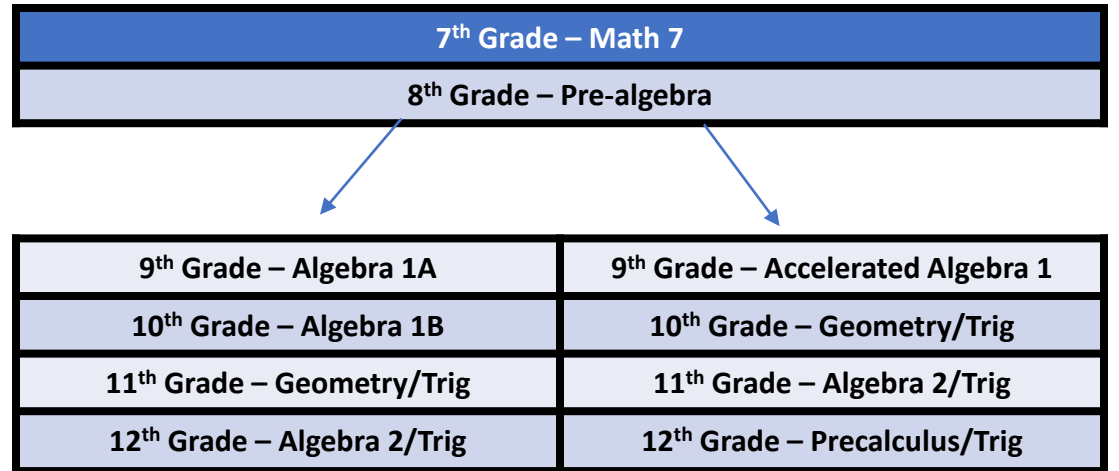
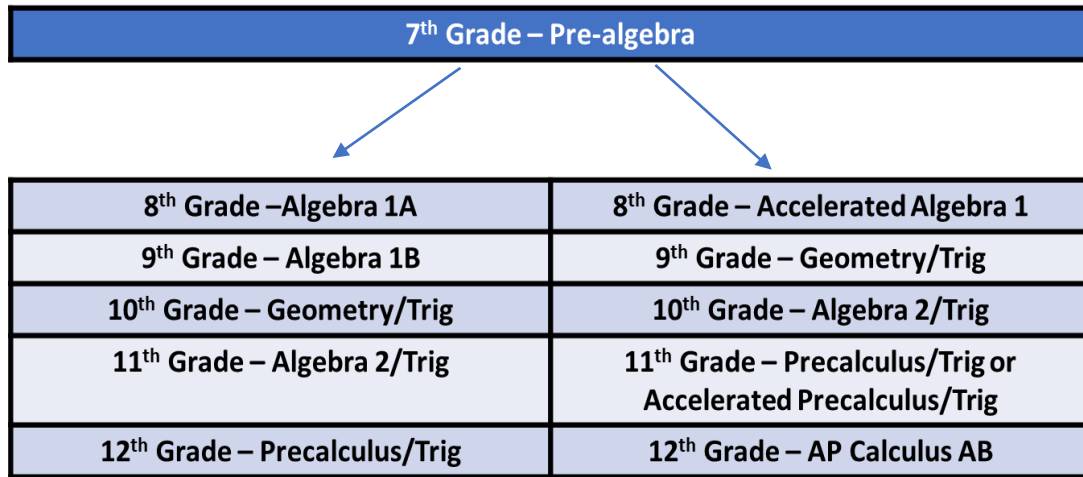
January 30 – Eligible students select their World Language choice during English class

February 7 - Verification sheets sent home for parent signature. Requests for changes should be made in writing on the verification sheets, signed and returned to Advisory.

February 13 - Verification sheets due back in Advisory. LAST day to make course requests changes*.



Math Pathways



RISING 8TH GRADE FAQ

- **What electives will my student take in 8th grade?**
 - Students will complete the “wheel” of electives by taking electives they did not take in 7th Grade
 - Music students will continue with their performing class and take PE/Health, Integrated Technology II, and the two electives they DID NOT take in 7th grade (Art, Principles of Engineering, or Family Consumer Science)
 - Non-performing music students will take PE/Health, Art, Principles of Engineering, Family Consumer Science, Integrated Technology and Exploratory Music
- **When does my student take a World Language?**
 - Students choose a world language to study in 8th grade unless it is determined they will benefit from Reading
 - French and Spanish are equitable in difficulty
 - French 1 is only offered in 8th grade



RISING 8TH GRADE FAQ

- **Does my student have to continue with a music performing group if they started in 7th grade?**
 - No, this is not required and students have the opportunity to change their electives during the program planning process. However, students are scheduled to continue with the performing music unless guidance is notified otherwise.
 - It is a decision that you as a family have to make if your child expresses an interest in no longer performing
- **Can I choose what electives my child takes in 8th grade?**
 - No, as mentioned in the previous slide every student is scheduled to take the full spectrum of electives offered in the middle school curriculum. Students have opportunities to choose electives in 9th grade



RISING 8TH GRADE FAQ

- **I see my student was recommended for Advanced Social Studies/Science what does that look like?**
 - Students going into 8th grade can be recommended for Advanced Science and/or Social Studies. Most of our students will take one or the other as both classes have large projects tied to them (Science Fair and National History Day) These year long projects end up completing around the same time so it can be very stressful trying to complete both
- **Are Advanced courses a different curriculum than Academic?**
 - No. Advanced courses include the projects discussed above and have higher expectations for writing standards and analysis



RISING 8TH GRADE FAQ

- **Does my student need to take Advanced in 8th grade to take 9th grade Honors courses?**
 - No, advanced courses in 8th grade are not pre-requisites for taking 9th grade advanced courses
- **When does PEN fit into my 8th grader's schedule?**
 - PEN 8 is completed in the Art curriculum for 8th grade. PEN students are enrolled in a special section of Art that is designed around PEN enrichment
- **Does my PEN Student need to take PEN Art?**
 - No, students do not have to take the PEN Art
 - They can keep their GIEP and receive enrichment in their core classes



FAQ FROM SURVEY

- **How will parents know if their student re teacher recommendation for an advanced program of studies?**
 - A or A- in 7th grade course and teacher recommendation and conference with teacher; it will be listed on course verification sheet given to students and signed by parents (see PP above).
- **Can a 7th grade student who would like to move into the music schedule choose which two other specials they'd like to take on 8th grade?**
 - It depends - guidance counselors try but depends on the master schedule.
- **Advanced Social Studies - the online presentation has a sample timeline for advanced science project deliverables. Has a similar timeline been created that shows Social Studies project deliverables?**
 - Websites & essays are due in the first or second week of February. Final project is due mid-late March (typicall one or two weeks before NHD).





**HOLICONG MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE
ADVANCED SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES**



8TH GRADE SCIENCE

SHOULD I TAKE ADVANCED SCIENCE?



8TH GRADE SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Academic Science

- ❑ **Integrated 4 unit course**
 - ❑ **Forces, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Human Body Systems**
- ❑ **Problem-solving and critical thinking skills**

Advanced Research Science

- ❑ **Integrated 4 unit course**
 - ❑ **Forces, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Human Body Systems**
- ❑ **Problem –solving and critical thinking skills**
- ❑ **Scientific Research**
- ❑ **Bucks County Science Fair**



WHAT IS THE SCIENCE FAIR?

Independent experimentation

Steps involved:

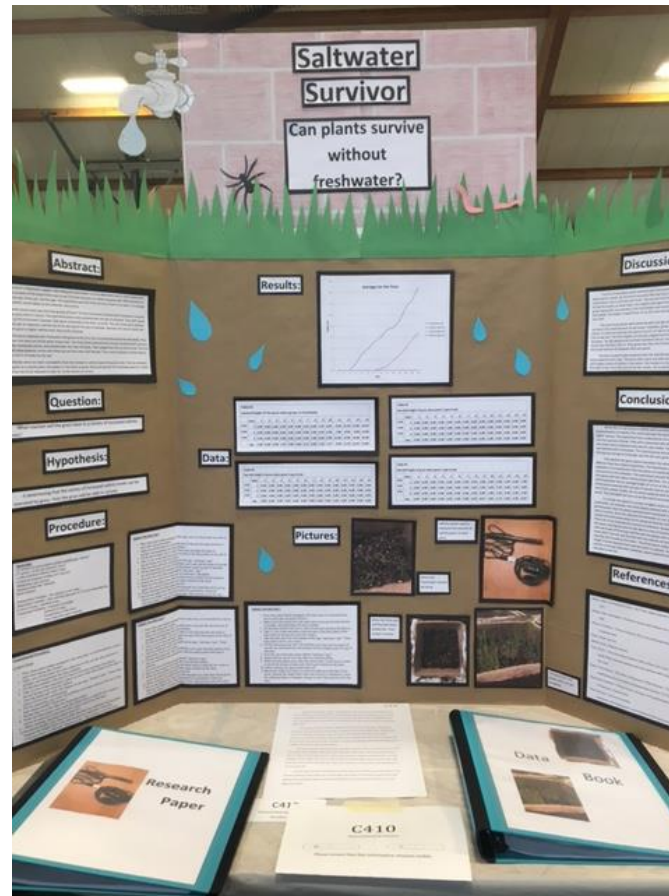
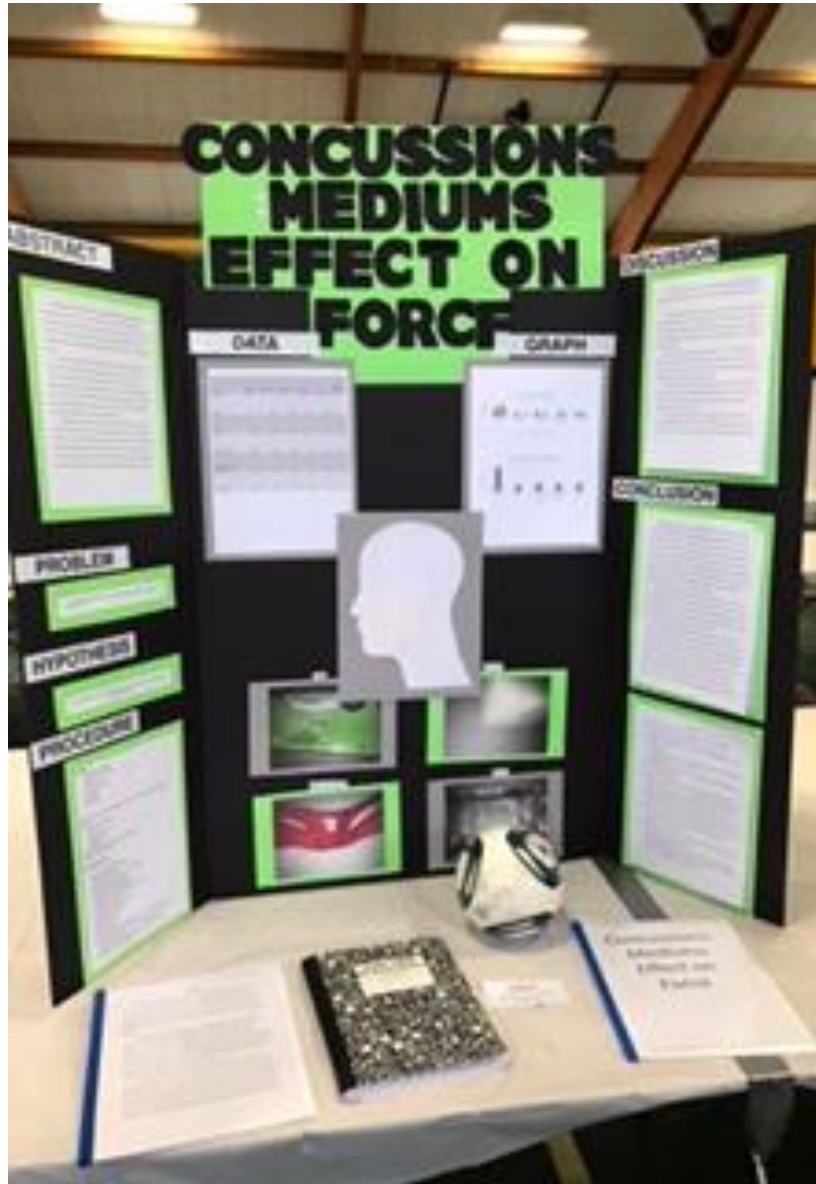
- **Choose a topic of interest**
- **Research background information**
- **Formulate a hypothesis**
- **Design an experimental procedure**
- **Collect data**
- **Graph data**
- **Interpret data and draw conclusions**
- **Display and present project**



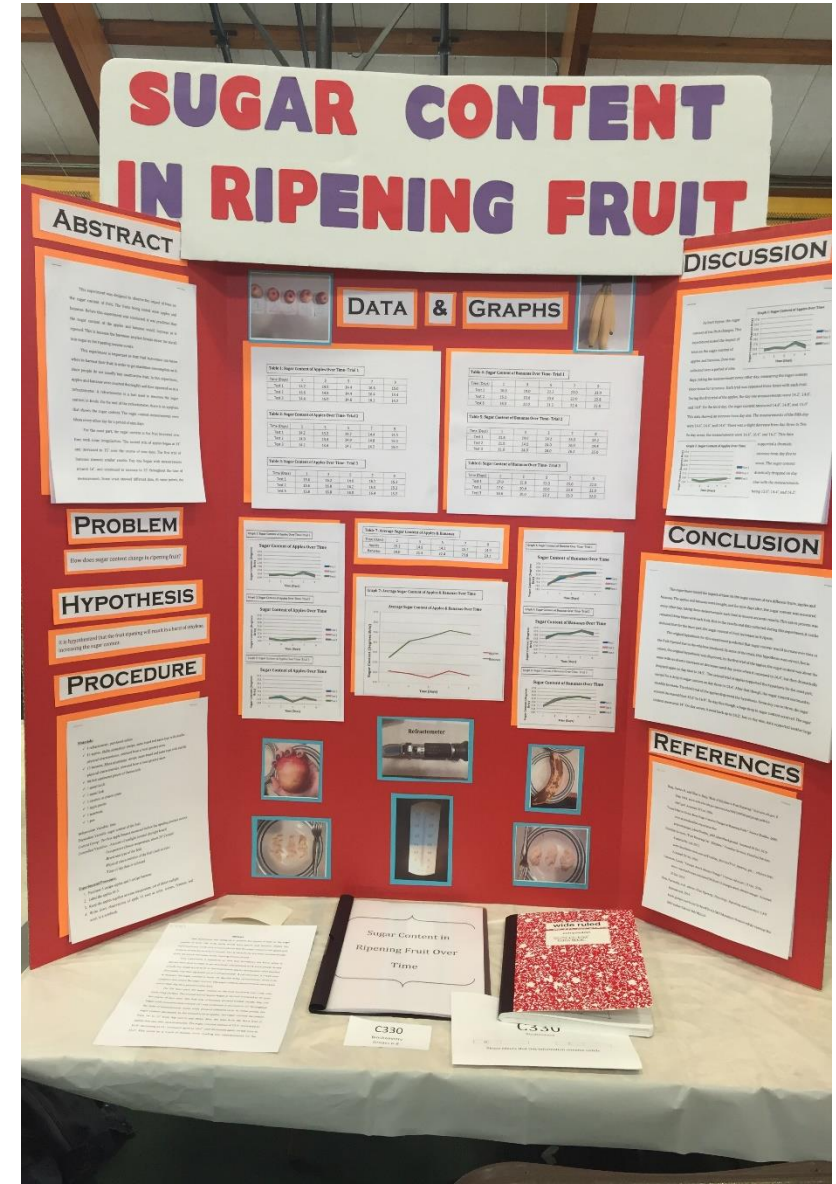
Due Date	Activities	Assignments due
9/28	Selecting a Question	Tipsheet #1
Meet with teacher prior to 10/2	Revising the Question	Tipsheet #2
10/12	Research and Noodletools bibliography	Tipsheet #3
10/26	Research paper	Tipsheet #4
11/1	Bucks County Science Fair Registration and Payment due (only if competing)	Online registration and payment
11/8	Hypothesis and Variables	Tipsheet #5 and Tipsheet #6
11/16	Experiment (Materials and Procedure)	Tipsheet #7
11/15	Bucks County Science Fair Paperwork (optional)	Science Fair forms
12/20	Initial Trials and Data Tables	Tipsheet #8
1/24	Final Data – Tables and Graphs	Tipsheet #8
2/2	Discussion of Results	Tipsheet #9
2/9	Conclusion	Tipsheet #10
2/21	Typed Project Summary/ Abstract	Tipsheet #11
3/9	Final project: Trifold or Video	Use rubric
3/11 – 3/14	Bucks County Science Fair at Delaware Valley University	
April	Delaware Valley Science Fair	

EXAMPLE OF DUE DATES AND TIME REQUIREMENT



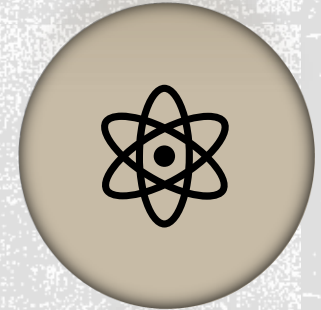


EXAMPLES



REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVANCED SCIENCE

- Intellectual curiosity in Science
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Overall grade average in science of
A or A-
- Teacher recommendation



8TH GRADE

AMERICAN

HISTORY

Should I take Advanced Social



WHAT IS ADVANCED AMERICAN HISTORY AND HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM ACADEMIC AMERICAN HISTORY?

- Follows the same curriculum...1600 - 1900
- An emphasis on historical research
- Research based activities and projects
- Analysis and purpose of history
- Methods to understand past experiences
- Defining sources of information
- Organizing research
- Communicate effectively
- Research trips to the Central Library in Philadelphia
- Participation in National History Day Competition at Del Val University



WHAT IS NATIONAL HISTORY DAY?

“We need history, not to tell us what happened or to explain the past, but to make the past alive so that it can explain us and make a future possible.”

Allen Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

- **A regional, state, and national competitive project**
- **Integrate the arts, sciences, and other disciplines**
- **Groups of 1-5 students can work together**
- **Choose a topic related to the overall theme**
- **Primary and secondary research on that topic**
- **Present findings in a performance, exhibit, documentary, website, or research essay at NHD Showcase**



WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVANCED AMERICAN HISTORY?

Each student pursuing placement in the Advanced program must exhibit all of the following qualities:

- **Ability to work independently and/or in a group**
- **Intellectual curiosity in English and Social Studies**
- **Evidence of meeting deadlines, creativity, and originality**

Each student must have the following grade or receive a teacher recommendation:

A or A- average in 7th grade Academic Social Studies

or

7th Grade Social Studies Teacher Recommendation



QUESTIONS

Can students take both Advanced Science and Social Studies?

- Students that have met the prerequisite grade & recommendation for each course can take both. We ask that students & parents consider all information below before making that decision. Both courses have a required research project, NHD and Science Fair, that requires a major commitment.

What is the time commitment outside of school for each project requirement?

- The commitment outside of school can be demanding. It requires Researching, collecting data, meeting with partners, and constructing finished products – a majority of this work takes place outside of the classroom. It requires an outstanding work ethic and time management, especially in February and March as both projects come to a close.



Should students work with a partner for NHD?

- Working with a partner that is as committed as your child is very important. As stated earlier, getting together outside of school is imperative and partners should set clear expectations for responsibilities & time commitments. We have seen some partnerships not work in the past and it has caused conflict & stress between the partners.

QUESTIONS

My child is involved in the musical. How will this impact my child's projects?

- The musical is always within a week or two of the NHD and Science Fair competitions. Students involved in the musical and either advanced course will have a busy schedule.

My child is heavily involved in extracurriculars at HOLICONG & activities outside of Holicong. How will this impact his/her progress?

- There are many deadlines that have to be met throughout the process for BOTH classes. Meeting these deadlines is IMPERATIVE in order to keep pace and complete the research process effectively. We must remember that this is the first Advanced SS or Science course students are taking.



When are the Science and SS projects due?

- Both NHD and Science Fair projects are due roughly around the same time. With the exception of essays and websites for NHD, all projects are due in late March and April.

QUESTIONS

Do teachers and counselors recommend taking both advanced classes?

- It **DEPENDS** on the individual student. We only include this information to make students & parents aware of the responsibilities and commitment when taking both. Students that are recommended for each course are done so in isolation of one another.

How should students determine whether to take both courses?

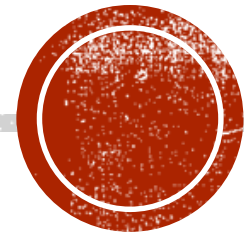
- Students recommended for both courses have met academic requirements & received teacher recommendations for both. students should talk to parents, teachers, and other students (who have taken both previously) and make a decision that is best for them.



Who can we contact with any questions pertaining to taking both courses?

- Please contact your current Social Studies & Science teacher or guidance counselor with any questions.

8TH TO 9TH GRADE
PROGRAM PLANNING
RESOURCES



Program Planning 2020-2021

8th to 9th Grade: *The 2020-2021 Middle School Program of Studies will be available online at www.cbsd.org on January 3rd under Student Resources.* Please refer to the Program of Studies Guide for clarification of course requirements.

February 3rd – Program Planning and Elective Assembly. Learn about the Program Planning process and view presentations about the various elective choices that are available in the 9th grade.

February 4th ,5th – Select electives for 9th grade in the Science Class.

February 25th - Verification sheets (lists courses requested) sent home for parent signature.

March 3rd - Requests for changes should be made on the verification sheets, signed and returned to Advisory.

March 14th - LAST day to make course request changes.*



RISING 9TH GRADE FAQ

- **How many credits does my student need?**
 - Students will earn 6.75 credits in their 9th grade year. For a standard diploma students need 27.25 credits to graduate
 - Students earn .50 credits of their 1 credit Physical Education requirement in 9th grade
- **Do 9th Grade classes appear on high school transcripts?**
 - Yes, 9th grade is the first year of high school even though it is housed in the middle school building, and the 9th grade classes are designed with a high school level of rigor. These classes do appear on the transcript for Central Bucks East
- **Will my student still play sports for Holicong?**
 - It depends. All 9th grade students are eligible to try out for sports at CB East. However, Holicong does offer the following 9th grade sports:
 - Fall: Field Hockey & Football, Boys & Girls Soccer
 - Winter: Boys & Girls Basketball
 - Spring: Baseball & Softball



RISING 9TH GRADE FAQ

- **What electives can my student take in 9th grade?**
 - Non performing music students will take .50 credits of PE/Health. In addition, they will have their choice of 4 electives in the following areas: Art, Technology & Engineering Education, FCS, and Integrated Tech
 - Performing Music students will take .50 credits of their performing music class, .50 credits of PE/Health and 2 electives in the following areas: Art, Technology & Engineering Education, FCS, and Integrated Tech
- **Are there any new specials or curriculum offerings for 2020-2021?**
 - No
- **Are Honors classes “weighted” in 9th grade?**
 - Yes. 9th grade classes are weighted. The curriculum is different between academic and honors to justify the weighting of the 9th grade course. Even though the 9th grade courses are weighted, in speaking with the high school counselors, they report admissions offices strip away “weighted” GPAs to make everyone equal. Colleges are more interested in seeing students that take the most challenging curriculum available to them that they can succeed in.



FAQ FROM SURVEY

- What is meant by the science electives, do we need to select between different topics and how do you get informed on the choices/implications?
 - There are no science electives in 9th grade. There are in 10th - 12th grade and these are listed in the 10th & 12th Program of Studies.
- How necessary is it to take *ADV Social Studies* for the college-bound student who is not going to study government, history etc in college? What would the student gain by being in the *ADV SS* course?
 - Not needed or a requirement. Advantage is dependent on the student and a combination of factors - passion for subject, work ethic, etc.



FAQ FROM SURVEY

- **What math courses should be completed before taking the SAT's?**
 - Algebra 1 & Geometry. Algebra 2 is recommended but not required.
- **SAT ePrep - Link says see librarian to enroll. Is the program available anytime, such as summer, to work on when schedule is less hectic? Are you limited to the length of time or # of times you use it?**
 - ePrep is an online SAT and ACT test prep program available for free to CB high school students. You can find it at <https://www.eprep.com/>. All CB high school students are automatically registered for an account before they begin 10th grade. They may use it at any time, whether or not they take an SAT Prep class at East, and there is no limit to the length of time or # of times you use it.
- **As an alternative to doubling up on math, are summer math courses an option? Is PE available in summer?**
 - This is a possibility through 217 policy. Historically, summer PE is available through Community School but not guaranteed.



HONORS VS. ACADEMIC CLASSES

- Available in English, Science, Social Studies, and Math
- Factors in Teacher Recommendation:
 - Class grades (both 7th and 8th)
 - PSSA scores (both 7th and 8th)
 - Specific skills (i.e. Writing)
 - Interest & motivation in subject area
 - Work habits



HONORS ENGLISH

Assessment –

- Core 1: Includes specific grammatical structures that enhance style in personal narrative
- Core 2: Required research components
- Revised rubrics

Writing –

- **Minimum of six required writing pieces, including two new required on-demand argument writing pieces**
- Additional research
- Additional grammar instruction to enhance style (new workbook)

Reading –

- Whole Novel Approach
- **Minimum of 4 more complex texts**
- *The Illustrated Man, Lord of the Flies, A Separate Peace, The Book Thief*



HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES

- **Higher expectation every day (more complex examples and applications, more complex formative and summative assessment)**
- Mid-Term
- Different Final Exam
- Different Core Assessments
- Additional Content
- **More reading and writing**
- 9th Grade Honors Book list (students required to choose one to read)
- More use of primary source documents
- More analysis, synthesis, interpretation, conceptual thinking and less memorization
- Students need to realize there is a higher expectation for deeper academic conversations with Socratic Circles, debates, using more outside research with evidence
- Different writing assessments- DBQ, pulling together to synthesize



HONORS SCIENCE

- Each unit of study will include:
 - Greater depth of content.
 - Different learning experiences.
 - Different (open inquiry) approach to laboratory investigations.
 - **Challenging reading assignments from scientific journals.**
- The course will include:
 - A nonfiction companion text.
 - Various research components.
 - Different unit assessments and core performance assessments.



QUESTIONS?

For more information please reach out your child's School Counselor:

Barbara Louderback

Email: blouderback@cbsd.org

Phone: (267) 893-2710

