

Advanced Courses Descriptions

Spanish Fort Middle School

7th Grade

Advanced English Language Arts 7

Prerequisite: 6th grade English

Advanced English Language Arts 7 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study for English Language Arts. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content. Outside reading/writing assignments are required.

Grade 7 Accelerated Mathematics

Prerequisite: 6th grade math

The Grade 7 Accelerated course has been carefully aligned and designed for middle school students who show particular motivation and interest in mathematics. Grade 7 Accelerated Math provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study for Mathematics. At the accelerated level, students will engage in rigorous study of proportional relationships, operations using rational numbers, linear equations and systems of linear equations, linear functions, random sampling and data distributions, transformations, real-world applications of area and circumference of two-dimensional figures, and surface area of three-dimensional figures. Grade 7 Accelerated Math is a compacted course, which means that all of the content of Grade 7 Mathematics, half of Grade 8 Mathematics, and some standards from Algebra I with Probability are compressed into this single course. Therefore, the curriculum moves at an accelerated pace. Opportunities are provided for students to master mathematical content and skills; develop the ability to make sense of problem situations; and build conceptual understanding that serves as the foundation for Grade 8 Accelerated Math and high school mathematics. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and build the skills necessary for Algebra I with Probability. Daily homework and some out-of-class projects are required.

A student must successfully pass Grade 7 Accelerated Math in order to take Grade 8 Accelerated Math. Students who successfully complete both Grade 7 Accelerated Math and Grade 8 Accelerated Math will be prepared to enter Geometry with Data Analysis in Grade 9 and with adequate progress can then accelerate directly into Algebra II with Statistics in Grade 10, thus providing them with an opportunity to take additional, specialized mathematics coursework in Grades 11 and 12. A student (and his or her parent) who decides to accelerate directly into Algebra II with Statistics (bypassing Algebra I with Probability) will not earn a math credit for Algebra I with Probability and will be required to earn at least four math credits to satisfy the Alabama diploma requirements. A student who has completed Grade 7 Accelerated and Grade 8 Accelerated Math (and his or her parent) may elect to take the Algebra I with Probability at the high school level.

Advanced Life Science 7

Prerequisite: Science, Grade 6

Advanced Life Science provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills by exploring and questioning new ideas and theories. Students are involved in “hands-on” and “minds-on” learning which progresses from the concrete to the abstract and from knowledge to application in science. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content. Outside and summer reading/writing assignments may be required.

Advanced Civics 7

Prerequisite: Social Studies Grade 6

Advanced Geography 7

Prerequisite: Social Studies Grade 6

Advanced Civics 7 and Advanced Geography 7 provide students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content. Outside reading/writing assignments are required.

8th Grade

Advanced English Language Arts 8

Prerequisite: 7th grade Regular or Advanced English Language Arts

Advanced English Language Arts 8 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study for English Language Arts. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, analysis, and problem solving. Opportunities are provided for students to develop questioning and research strategies that assist them in organizing and presenting information in oral, visual, and written formats. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and build the skills necessary for the transition to high school. Outside reading/writing assignments are required.

Grade 8 Accelerated Mathematics

Prerequisite: Grade 7 Accelerated Mathematics

The Grade 8 Accelerated course has been carefully aligned and designed for middle school students who have completed the Grade 7 Accelerated course and show particular motivation and interest in mathematics. Grade

8 Accelerated Math provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study for Mathematics. At the accelerated level, students will engage in rigorous study of algebraic and graphical representations of problems; function notation and language; linear, quadratic, and exponential relationships; data regression; probability; and the real number system including both rational and irrational numbers. Grade 8 Accelerated Math is a compacted course, which means that approximately half the content of Grade 8 Mathematics and a majority of the content of high school Algebra I with Probability are compressed into this single course. Therefore, the curriculum moves at an accelerated pace. Opportunities are provided for students to master mathematical content and skills; apply reasoning and problem solving skills to real world situations; and build conceptual understanding that serves as the foundation for all high school mathematics. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and build the skills necessary for high school mathematics courses. Daily homework and some out-of-class projects are required.

A student must successfully pass Grade 7 Accelerated Math in order to take Grade 8 Accelerated Math. Students who successfully complete both Grade 7 Accelerated Math and Grade 8 Accelerated Math will be prepared to enter Geometry with Data Analysis in Grade 9 and with adequate progress can then accelerate directly into Algebra II with Statistics in Grade 10, thus providing them with an opportunity to take additional, specialized mathematics coursework in Grades 11 and 12. A student (and his or her parent) who decides to accelerate directly into Algebra II with Statistics (bypassing Algebra I with Probability) will not earn a math credit for Algebra I with Probability and will be required to earn at least four math credits to satisfy the Alabama diploma requirements. A student who has completed Grade 7 Accelerated and Grade 8 Accelerated Math (and his or her parent) may elect to take the Algebra I with Probability at the high school level.

Advanced World History 8

Prerequisite: 7th grade Regular or Advanced Civics/Advanced Geography

Advanced World History 8 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills in the study of history and geography. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a concentrated focus on independent reading, writing, and analysis. Opportunities are provided for students to develop questioning strategies that assist them in organizing and presenting information in oral, visual, and written formats. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and build the skills necessary for the transition to high school. Outside reading/writing assignments are required.

Advanced Physical Science 8

Prerequisite: 7th grade Regular or Advanced Life Science

Advanced Physical Science 8 provides students with a challenging curriculum that is aligned to the Alabama Course of Study. At the advanced level, students will use a wide variety of text to increase their use of critical thinking skills for solving problems and designing investigations. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on multiple types of scientific inquiry such as questioning, exploration, and the in-depth study of important concepts. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, combine reasoning and thinking skills with scientific knowledge, and build the skills necessary for the transition to high school. Outside and summer reading/writing assignments may be required.

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