



# SPANISH FORT MIDDLE SCHOOL

## ADVANCED CLASSES 2020-2021



### Frequently Asked Questions:

1. "My child is eligible for advanced classes. How do I know if it's the right choice?"

Visit the Spanish Fort Middle School website for more information regarding advanced curriculum in each core subject. Talk with your child's current teachers to get information regarding their success and progress this year. You may also ask yourself these questions about your child:

  - Is your child good at solving problems?
  - Is your child a self-motivated learner?
  - Is your child chosen by others to help or lead?
  - Is your child curious and inquisitive?
  - Does your child have a good memory?
  - Does your child complete homework independently?
  - Is your child well-organized and goal-oriented?
2. Who is eligible for advanced classes in middle school?

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible for advanced classes at Spanish Fort Middle School. Students qualify through data collection from Scantron assessments and semester grades. Qualifying letters and student rubrics are mailed home in the spring.
3. What if my child did not qualify for advanced classes, and I would like them placed in a class(es)?

If you would like for your student to be placed in an advanced class they did not qualify for, please contact Ms. Nigia Bolton ([nbolton@bcbe.org](mailto:nbolton@bcbe.org)) and Mrs. Teri Fisher ([tfisher@bcbe.org](mailto:tfisher@bcbe.org)) with your request. These requests on a case by case basis by our counselors and administration. You will be contacted at a later date with more information.
4. What are the benefits of taking advanced classes?
  - You'll study a subject in greater depth
  - You'll find out what you can really do – if you don't challenge yourself, you'll never know what you are capable of doing.
  - You'll be more prepared for AP classes in high school
  - You'll be surrounded by students who may be more motivated to achieve and learn.
5. How much homework is there?

Depending on the course, the average homework load for an advanced course can range from 2-8 hours per week. Please contact teachers directly for additional information on homework time commitments and requirements.
6. How many advanced classes should I take?

That depends on many factors: your ability, your extra-curricular activities schedule, and your level of success in your classes to date.

7. Once my child is enrolled in an advanced class, can I take him/her out?

Once the school year begins, schedules are final. We are not inclined to make schedule changes after the start of a school year. The balance of class sizes is very important and a necessity for our teachers and students to be successful. Changing student schedules creates oversized and undersized classes.

8. If my child doesn't take advanced classes in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, will he/she still be eligible to take advanced classes in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade?

Yes, there is no prerequisite for advanced classes in middle school for the subjects of science, social studies and English.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

2020-2021 8<sup>th</sup> Graders (Current 7<sup>th</sup> Graders) - No Prerequisites for math

2020-2021 7<sup>th</sup> Graders (Current 6<sup>th</sup> Graders) - 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math IS a prerequisite for 8<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math. Students who do NOT take 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math will NOT be eligible to take 8<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated math. At a

9. What's the difference between advanced and regular classes in: English, Social Studies, Math, Science?

**English**

- ✓ Pace of class is faster
- ✓ Writing is more analytical
- ✓ Literature is different and usually more challenging
- ✓ Vocabulary is more difficult
- ✓ More focus on critical thinking skills
- ✓ Summer assignments may be given for completion and due the first day of school

**Social Studies**

- ✓ There will be more emphasis on reading and writing
- ✓ Classes will involve more in-depth analysis of material
- ✓ Students will be assigned more challenging cooperative learning projects
- ✓ Summer assignments may be given for completion and due the first day of school

**Math**

- ✓ Requires students to use higher level thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation more often
- ✓ Provides more depth and breadth of curriculum
- ✓ Courses are taught at a much faster pace
- ✓ Students need a solid background of skills and concepts learned in their previous math classes

**Science**

- ✓ Students must participate in an independent and collaborative research
- ✓ Students will be exposed to more enrichment reading
- ✓ Assessments are more application and depth of knowledge with reading and writing responses
- ✓ Students in advanced science will be required to participate in a school wide science fair
- ✓ Summer assignments may be given for completion and due the first day of school

\*\*\*The deadline to turn in advanced placement letters is Friday, April 3. Please take a photo of completed sheet and email to [tfisher@bcbe.org](mailto:tfisher@bcbe.org) or bring the copy up to the school and place in the box outside the front of the building.

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's counselor:

6<sup>th</sup> grade – Mrs. Lewanna Goodrich - [lgoodrich@bcbe.org](mailto:lgoodrich@bcbe.org)

7<sup>th</sup> grade – Ms. Nigia Bolton - [nbolton@bcbe.org](mailto:nbolton@bcbe.org)