



Explore Possibilities . . . Embrace *New Opportunities* . . . Establish Excellence . . . And Thrive!

DESANA MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVANCED STUDIES COURSES



For the 2016-2017 School Year



The Criteria for Placement in an Advanced Studies Course at DeSana

**ANY young man or young woman
has the opportunity to enroll in an
Advanced Studies Course**

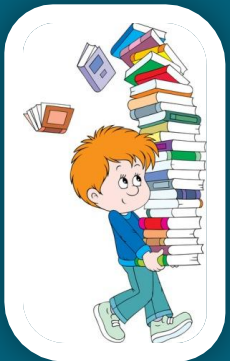


Student Motivation is the key criteria.



The Criteria for Placement in an Advanced Studies Course at DeSana

The student should be eager to embrace the more challenging work that is offered & the time commitment required in Advanced Studies Courses.





Creating a Culture of Opportunities & Excellence at DeSana

**We want to provide opportunities
for our students to reach their
fullest potential . . . to Achieve
Excellence!**





Why Should A Student Consider Exploring Possibilities & Seizing The Opportunity To Take Advanced Studies Courses at DeSana?

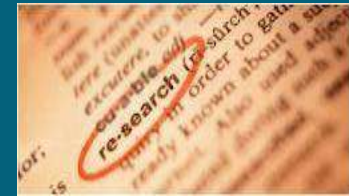
What Are Your Goals for the Future & What Must You Do to Achieve Them?





Some Things to Consider . . . What Does the Research Say?

➤ Do you believe that you need to attend some type of college and get your degree to help achieve your future goals?



➤ What challenges must you be prepared for in *High School* in order to get into the college of your choice and help you achieve your future goals?



Some Things to Consider . . . What Does the Research Say?

➤ Preparation for the challenges of High School advanced courses (Honors, Accelerated, AP, IB & Dual Enrollment) begins in Middle School.

➤ Give more hope for the HOPE!



➤ Given these considerations, & thinking about your own personal goals for the future . . . What are the options for Advanced Studies courses at DeSana?



Advanced Studies Offerings at Each Grade Level

6th Grade

Sixth Grade students may choose up to two of the following courses:



Language Arts
Mathematics





Advanced Studies Offerings at Each Grade Level

7th Grade

Seventh Grade students may choose up to three . . .
and only three . . . of the following courses:

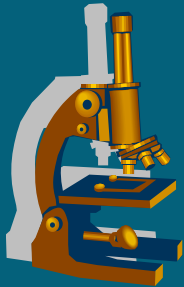


Language Arts



Mathematics

Social Studies



Science





Advanced Studies Offerings at Each Grade Level

8th Grade

Eighth Grade students may choose up
to four of the following courses:



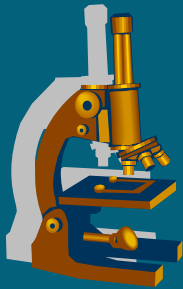
Language Arts

Mathematics

Social Studies

Physical Science*

(offered for High School Credit)





Accelerated Math

While Advanced level courses are open for all, and students may *choose* to enroll in them, there are additional criteria that must be met in order for students to be placed in Accelerated Math courses.

GSE Accelerated Math 6/7A

GSE Accelerated Math 7B/8

*GSE Accelerated Algebra/Geometry A**

* High School Credit course offered in 8th grade



Math Course Sequence (6-12)

Grade	On-Level	Advanced	Accelerated
6	GSE 6 th Grade Math	GSE 6 th Grade Math Advanced	GSE Accelerated Math 6/7A
7	GSE 7 th Grade Math	GSE 7 th Grade Math Advanced	GSE Accelerated Math 7B/8
8	GSE 8 th Grade Math	GSE 8 th Grade Math Advanced	GSE Accelerated Algebra/Geometry A



Math Course Sequence (6-12)

Grade	On-Level	Advanced	Accelerated
9	GSE Algebra I	GSE Accelerated Algebra I/ Geometry A	GSE Accelerated Geometry B/ Algebra II
10	GSE Geometry	GSE Accelerated Geometry B/ Algebra II	GSE Accelerated Pre- Calculus
11	GSE Algebra II	GSE Accelerated Pre-Calculus	-AP Calculus AB/BC -AP Statistics -Dual Enrollment
12	-GSE Pre-Calculus -GSE Advanced Mathematical Decision Making -AP Statistics	-AP Calculus AB/BC -AP Statistics -Dual Enrollment	-AP Calculus AB/BC -AP Statistics -Dual Enrollment



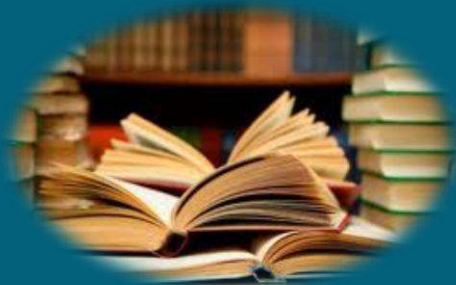
Accelerated vs. Advanced Math

- Accelerated and Advanced Math pathways will allow students to reach the same end.
- It is easier to get on the Accelerated path later than it is to get off that path . . .
- One key trait of successful Accelerated Math students is the motivation to pursue mathematics for the love of the subject.
- Accelerated Courses are not for everyone, and that's okay!



Expectations for Advanced Studies Courses

Students will study, discuss, research and be held accountable for learning advanced concepts at a faster pace in these classes. Their studies will be more rigorous and will take them more in-depth and broader in scope.





Expectations for Advanced Studies Courses

Students will be engaged in more and higher level research and writing assignments, and writing-based assessments throughout the school year in all four core subjects (Higher Level = Application, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation of concepts studied.)



Students will spend more time reading outside of class for their studies and assignments (Ex. novels, research documents, research articles on the Internet etc.) and will be expected to participate in class discussions on a regular basis.



Expectations for Advanced Studies Courses

Students will be engaged in more work and studies outside of class that may include writing assignments, research assignments, and projects.



Students will be engaged in more inquiry-based and project-based learning, sometimes with links to the community, for their academic work.



Expectations for Advanced Studies Courses

Students can expect to collaborate and work in teams on a regular basis, as well as work independently as a self-motivated learner.



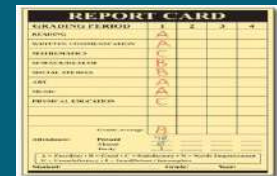
Students can expect to see more focus and emphasis on refining and polishing their presentation skills, sharing their final projects with audiences, and submitting their own work for publication.



Other Factors to Consider

Possible Impact on a Student's Grade? Honor and Merit Roll?

Advanced/Accelerated Studies Courses will not be given more “weight” than regular classes. With the challenge and rigor of these courses, students may have to work harder than they ever have before in their studies, and may learn more about perseverance and grit. They may not always make a grade of an A or B.





Other Factors to Consider

Advanced Studies Course teachers will offer “help sessions” for students in these courses just as they do for students in their on-grade level course. Teachers will not be asked, nor expected, to offer more “help sessions” for students struggling in an Advanced Studies Course.





Other Factors to Consider

- Simply taking and completing an Advanced/Accelerated course will NOT guarantee an Advanced/Accelerated course placement for rising 7th or 8th graders, or an AP/Honors course recommendation for rising 9th grade students.
- School/Home/Life Balance for you/your student.
- Think about and consider the entirety of the student's workload, including extracurricular activities, personal interests, family commitments & family time, and other factors in to your decision!





Other Factors to Consider

Advanced/Accelerated Courses are offered as an opportunity for students to pursue their interests at a higher level. In the event that a student struggles during the first six weeks of school, Advanced Studies teachers will communicate with parents and students about their concerns. Parents may consider withdrawing their child from Advanced/Accelerated Courses within the first nine weeks of the year. *At the end of the first nine weeks, any students enrolled in Accelerated/Advanced Courses will remain in those courses for the rest of school year.*





DeSana Advanced Studies Readiness Guides for Parents



Language Arts
Mathematics
Social Studies
Science



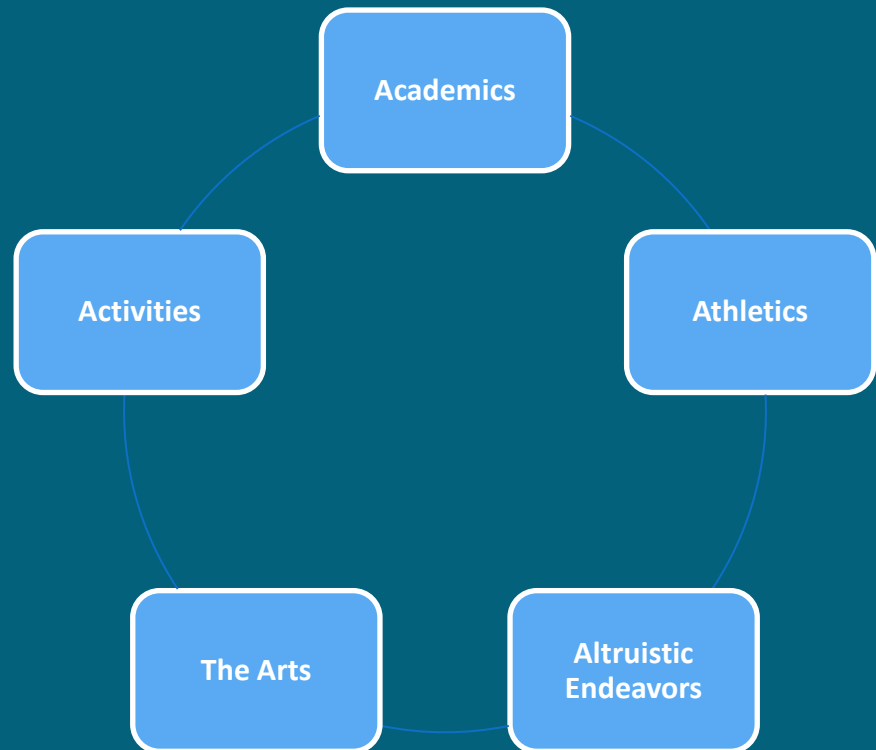
Parents & students may use these checklists as a guide to aid in their decision for placement into an Advanced Studies Course. Answering “yes” to all or nearly all would indicate a student’s readiness for the challenge and rigor of an Advanced Studies Course.



Developing the “Whole” Child

In order to encourage our students to be more successful, well-rounded individuals, we will have opportunities at DeSana for them to pursue more than just their studies. The Five “A”s include . . .

DeSana Advanced Studies students will be expected to engage in activities in one of these other focus areas. Those may be associated with DeSana or with outside organizations.





The Registration Form

- Expectations
- Other Factors To Consider
- Class Registration
- Signed Student Commitment
- Signed Parent Commitment




Click for Form

Due Date: Friday, June 3, 2016 by 6:00 PM

All forms must be dropped off at the Piney Grove Main Office and a receipt will be given. No late Registration Forms will be accepted! This is a firm due date!



Available Now . . .

*This Power Point Presentation
On the DeSana Website > Home Page*

*Student/Parent Advanced Studies Courses
Readiness Guides**

*Registration Forms**



***Copies are also available to take with you tonight!**

Breaking out of your comfort zone is the pathway to growth.

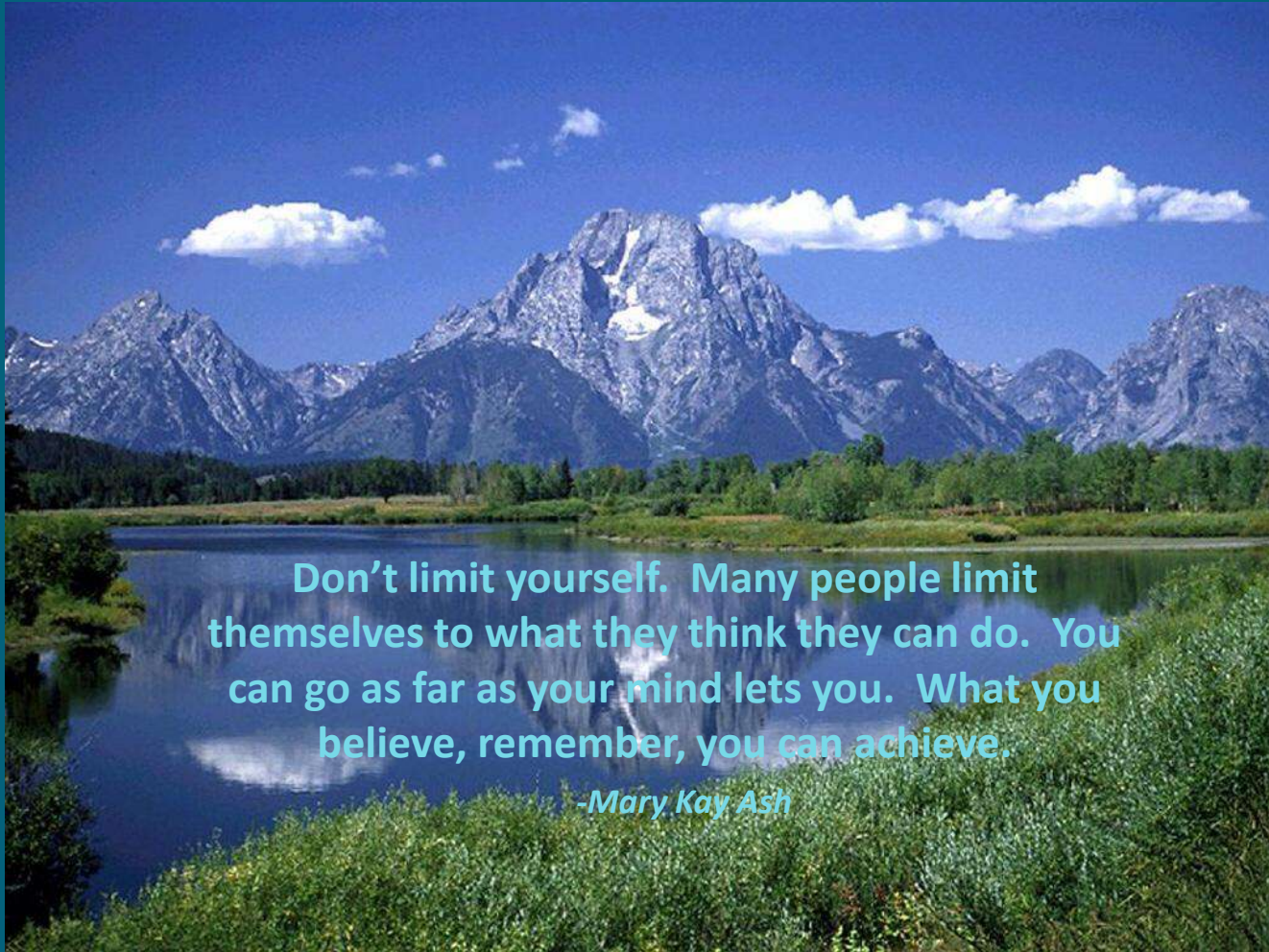
-An Iota of Truth



The bigger your challenges,
the bigger your opportunity for growth.

-Karen Salmoushn





Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.

-Mary Kay Ash





A Parting Thought . . .

Explore Possibilities . . . Embrace *New Opportunities* . . . Establish Excellence . . . And Thrive!

Pursue



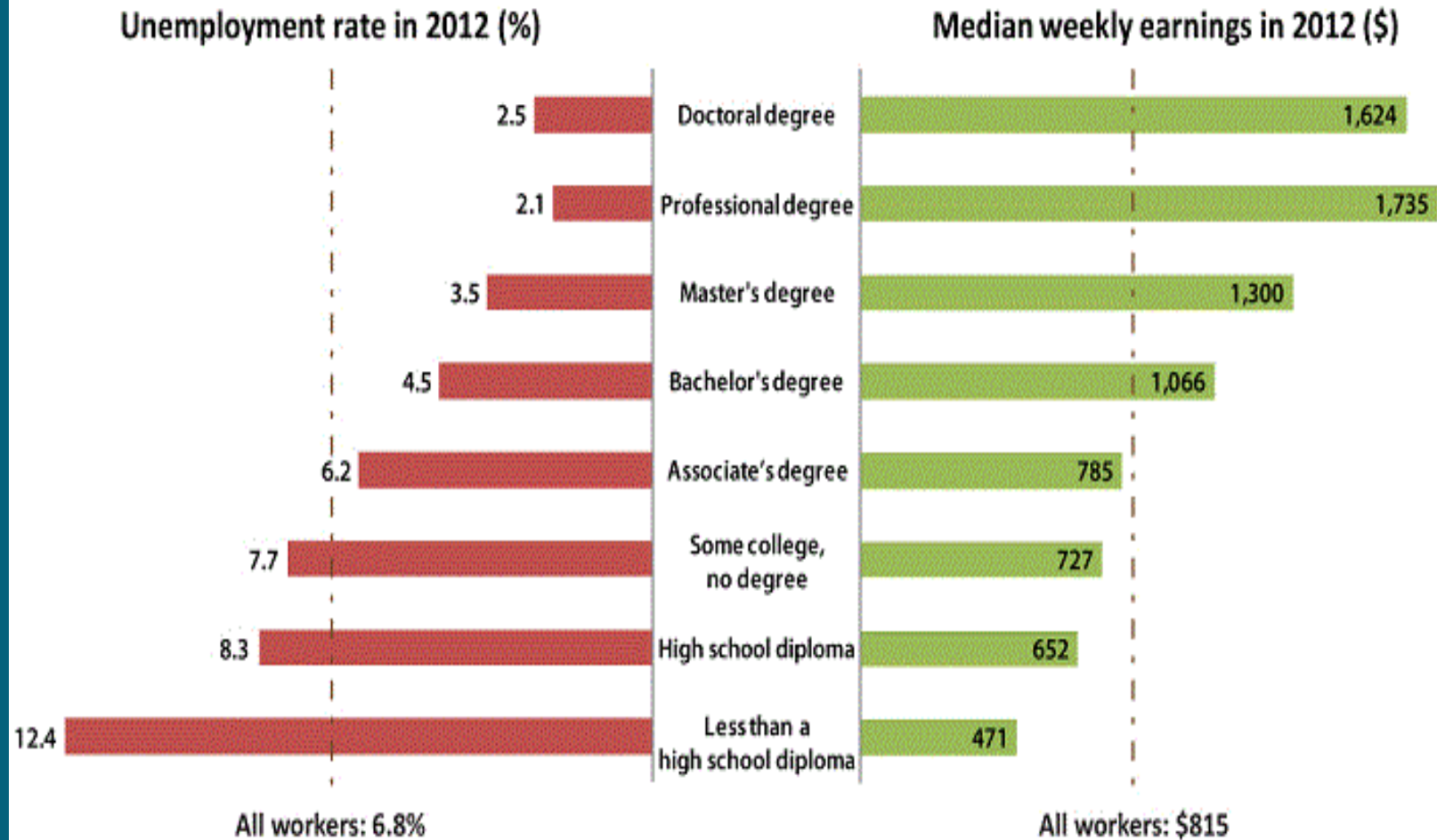
Your



Passion!

The *strong* belief that every student should plan to attend some type of college and get their degree.

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey





Exposing middle school students to more challenging academic opportunities is key for preparing them for more rigorous high school courses.

- According to the testing firm that publishes the ACT exam, the best time to bolster college readiness, access and success is in middle school. Reviewing data from more than 200,000 high school graduates, the ACT's researchers found, "The level of academic achievement that students attain by 8th grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness...than anything that happens academically in high school."
- *"Although high school coursework and high school grades have a positive relationship with college and career readiness, their impact is far outweighed by that of 8th grade academic achievement," the study states. "Without sufficient preparation before high school, students cannot maximize the benefits of high school."*
- In addition to academic achievement, an 8th grader's study habits also predict college readiness, access and success. Academic discipline proved to be the strongest predictor of college access and success.
- *Thus, we know that opportunity plays a key role in making the most of human potential.*



HOPE Scholarship Rigor Requirements

New academic requirements are included in the HOPE legislation. These changes will impact students graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2015. In order to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship, students must meet the following academic requirements.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS	STUDENTS MUST RECEIVE CREDIT IN THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF COURSES	MINIMUM NUMBER OF COURSES REQUIRED PRIOR TO GRADUATION
2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution; 2) Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution; 3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects; 4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects; 5) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where such courses are not remedial and developmental courses; or 6) Advanced foreign language courses taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution. 	2
2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution; 2) Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution; 3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects; 4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects; 5) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where such courses are not remedial and developmental courses; or 6) Advanced foreign language courses taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution. 	3
2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution; 2) Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution; 3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects; 4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects; 5) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where such courses are not remedial and developmental courses; or 6) Advanced foreign language courses taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution. 	4