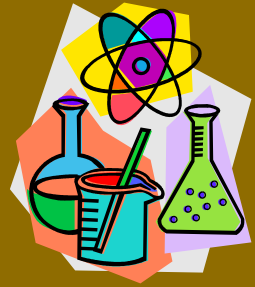


# Piney Grove Middle School

Embrace Opportunities . . . Unlock Potential . . . Inspire Excellence!



## ADVANCED STUDIES COURSES



Piney Grove  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

2014 – 2015

# The Criteria for Placement in Advanced Studies Courses at Piney Grove

- ANY young man or young woman may be placed in an Advanced Studies Course.
- Student Motivation is the key criteria.



# The Criteria for Placement in Advanced Studies Courses at Piney Grove

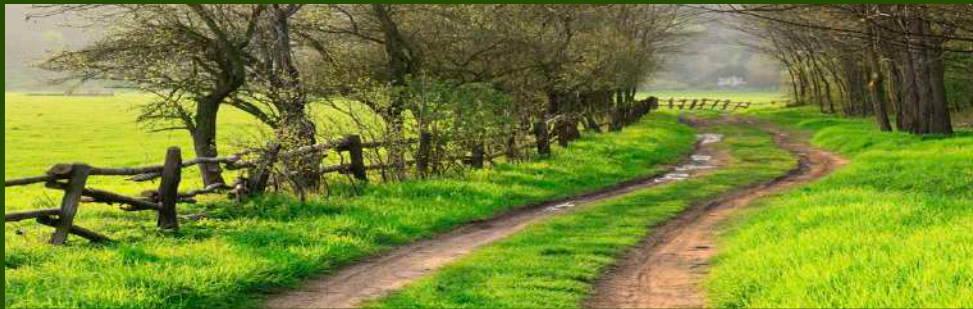
- The student should be eager to commit to more rigor in his/her courses and want the challenge of advanced studies.



- Several expectations and other factors that students and parents should first consider.

*Why A Student Should Consider Seizing The Opportunity  
To Take Advanced Studies Courses*

**Let's Begin With The End In Mind!**



# Some Things To Consider...

## The Research Is Quite Clear...

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



- Preparation for the challenges of High School Advanced Courses(Honors, Accelerated, AP, IB & Joint Enrollment)

# Some Things To Consider...

## The Research Is Quite Clear...

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

➤ Give more hope for the HOPE!



# Some More Things To Consider...

- Give students the opportunity to soar!



- Facilitate more student choice, ownership, and accountability for their education.



- Help students learn how to advocate for themselves when it comes to their education.



- The belief that motivation is the key to success in classes that require more rigor and time.



# *Creating a Culture of Opportunity* *At Piney Grove . . .*

**We want to provide *opportunities***  
**for our students to**  
**reach their fullest**  
**potential as they so desire**





# *Advanced Studies Offerings at Each Grade Level*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sixth Grade students may choose up  
to 2 . . . and only two . . . of the  
following courses:



**Language Arts**

**Mathematics**

**Social Studies**



# *Advanced Studies Offerings at Each Grade Level*

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

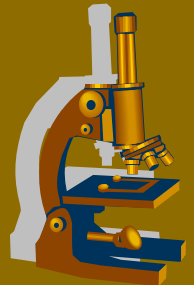
Seventh Grade students may choose up  
to 3 . . . and only three . . . of the  
following courses:

**Language Arts**

**Mathematics**

**Social Studies**

**Science**



# *Advanced Studies Offerings at Each Grade Level*

## 8th Grade

Eighth Grade students may choose up  
to 4 of the following courses:

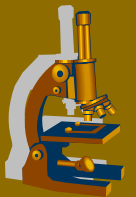
**Language Arts**

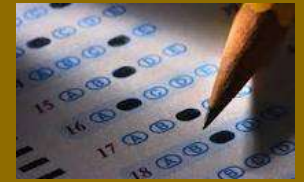
**Mathematics**

**Social Studies**

**Physical Science**

**(Offered for High School Credit)**





# Two Exceptions

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Accelerated Math**  
**(7<sup>th</sup> Grade and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade CCGPS Math Standards Included In This Course)**

**High School Accelerated CCGPS Coordinate  
Algebra / Analytic Geometry A**  
**(Taken In The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

**Both of these courses will require teacher recommendation and specific CRCT scores in Math for student placement because the 8<sup>th</sup> grade course is taken for High School credit and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade course is the pre-requisite for it.**

# High School Possibilities for Math Course Sequence

Grade	Standard	Advanced	Accelerated
6	CCGPS 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	CCGPS 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Advanced	CCGPS 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Advanced
7	CCGPS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	CCGPS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Advanced	CCGPS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Accelerated (includes 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade math standards)
8	CCGPS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	CCGPS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Advanced	Accelerated CCGPS Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry A
9	CCGPS Coordinate Algebra	Accelerated CCGPS Coordinate Algebra/Analytic Geometry A	Accelerated CCGPS Analytic Geometry B/Advanced Algebra
10	CCGPS Analytic Geometry	Accelerated CCGPS Analytic Geometry B/Advanced Algebra	Accelerated CCGPS Pre-Calculus
11	CCGPS Advanced Algebra	Accelerated CCGPS Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AB/BC, AP Statistics, Dual Enrollment
12	CCGPS Pre-Calculus, CCGPS Advanced Mathematical Decision Making, AP Statistics	AP Calculus AB/BC, AP Statistics, Dual Enrollment	AP Calculus AB/BC, AP Statistics, Dual Enrollment

# *Expectations for Advanced Studies Courses & How They Will Differ From On-level Courses*

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



➤ **Students will participate in academic extra-curricular competitions and/or opportunities for publication throughout the school year (Ex. Science Fair, Social Studies Fair, Oratorical Contest, Young Georgia Authors, Future Cities, Stock Market Game, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, etc.). Students can expect to work on these activities both inside and outside of class.**



# ***Expectations for Advanced Studies Courses & How They Will Differ From On-level Courses***

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



➤ **Students will spend more time reading inside and 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 & How They Will Differ From On-level Courses*

➤ Students will be engaged more in work and studies outside of class.



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



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





# *Expectations for Advanced Studies Courses & How They Will Differ From On-level Courses*

- **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.**
- **Students will be highly encouraged to participate in service-oriented clubs (i.e. Community Volunteers, FCA, Jr. Beta, Interact, Multicultural Club and others) and/or community service activities (G3 Day) at Piney Grove or in the community.**



# Other Factors to Consider

- Will the student and/or parents be fine with possibly not making the PGMS Merit or Honor Roll? Advanced Studies Courses will not be given more weight than regular courses. 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.

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average	B			
Attendance:	Present	40		
	Absent	0		
	Tardy	1		
A = Excellent • B = Good • C = Satisfactory • N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory • I = Insufficient / Incomplete				
Student:		Grade:		Year:

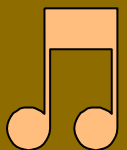
# Other Factors to Consider

- **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

- Taking Advanced Studies Courses in middle school, but particularly in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, does not guarantee a teacher recommendation for Honors or AP courses freshman year (9<sup>th</sup> Grade) in High School
- Forsyth County High Schools do, however, allow parents to “waiver” their child into (or out of) such courses. Parents and students make that final decision.
- This is another excellent opportunity for students and parents to have those conversations about *balancing* academic classes and other interests / pursuits (i.e. music, clubs, dance, athletics, religion, family, work) during the high school years



# Other Factors to Consider

- At the 6 week juncture of the first semester, Advanced Studies Course teachers will take note of any student who is struggling in their class and communicate their concerns to the student and parent. By the 9 week juncture, a *final decision* will have to be made as to whether or not a student remains in the Advanced Studies Course or is moved to an on grade level class. *After this 9 week juncture, students who remain in an Advanced Studies Course will stay there for the rest of the school year.*



# What Do Our Students Presently In Advanced Studies Courses Have To Say About These Classes?



# PGMS Advanced Studies Readiness Guides for Parents



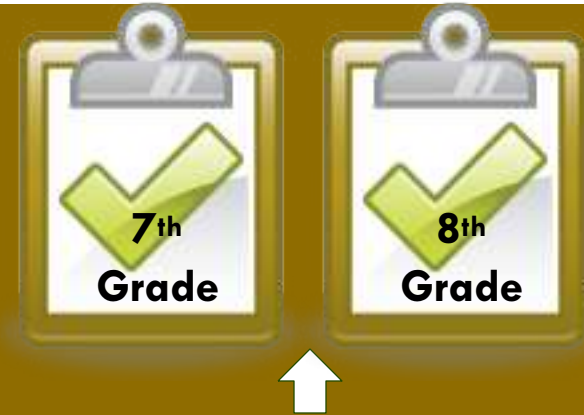
Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Social Studies  
Science



*Parents & students can 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.*

# The Registration Form

- Expectations
- Other Factors To Consider
- Class Registration
- Signed Student Commitment
- Signed Parent Commitment
- Student Essay(s): One essay for each Advanced Studies Course you wish to take, about why you want to take Advanced Studies Courses(minimum of 250 words per essay).



[Click for Form.](#)

Due Date: By Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 by 5:00 PM to our PGMS Office. Must be dropped off at our office and a receipt will be given. No late registration forms and essays will be accepted!



# Take With You Tonight

➤ **Advanced Studies Courses**  
*Readiness Guides*

➤ **Registration Form (Color-coded by  
grade level)**

➤ **Ms. North's Business Card**



# On Our Piney Grove Website Now...

- ***This Power Point Presentation***
- ***Student/Parent Advanced Studies Courses Readiness Guides***
- ***Registration Forms***



**\*These are all posted on our  
Piney Grove web site now, on the home page\***

# Some Closing Thoughts...

***Do the one thing you think you cannot do. Fail at it. Try again. Do better the second time. The only people who never tumble are those who never mount the high wire. This is your moment. Own it.***

***---Oprah Winfrey***



***Every day you'll have opportunities to take chances and work outside your safety net. Sure, it's a lot easier to stay in your comfort zone. . . but sometimes you have to take risks. That's when you reap the biggest rewards.***

***--- Donald Trump***



# The Piney Grove...

Follow the Piney Grove PATH to Greatness!

P - Personal

A - Achievement

T - Through

H - High Expectations

Hard Work

Honest Efforts

Heart



# Q / A Time



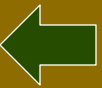
***If you have any questions after tonight, please feel free to email or call me and leave a contact number where you can be reached in the evening. If you prefer some time to conference face to face, then I will be happy to schedule a time in the evening to meet with you and your young Grizzly.***





# The End

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





# Preparation for the challenges of High School advanced courses (Honors, Accelerated, AP, IB, & Joint Enrollment)

## The College Board's Position on Academic Rigor and College Readiness

- College professors estimate that 42% of public school graduates are not adequately prepared for the rigors of college courses that include faster-paced, high level tasks.
  - Such tasks often include drawing inferences, interpreting results, analyzing conflicting sources of information, supporting arguments with evidence, and deeply thinking about material.
  - Approximately 28% of incoming college students need some sort of remediation.
  - Fifty-eight percent of non-remediated students obtain a bachelor's degree as compared to 17% - 37% of remediated students (varies based on degree of remediation).
  - The College Board found that academic rigor in high school is inversely related to remediation rates and positively related to graduation rates.
  - Academic rigor is also positively related to high school GPA, SAT scores, four year college enrollment, first year college GPA, and retention rate to second college year.
- Source: The College Board, *The Development of an Index of Academic Rigor for College Readiness* (2011).
- The rigors of High School Honors courses, Accelerated courses, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are quite challenging.
  - For those students who seek the challenge of these high school courses, 9<sup>th</sup> grade --- one of the most transitional and often difficult years in a young person's education --- is not the best time to learn what it will take to be successful in such rigorous courses.





# 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects;</li> <li>4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects;</li> <li>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</li> <li>6) Advanced foreign language courses taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution.</li> </ol>	2
2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects;</li> <li>4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects;</li> <li>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</li> <li>6) Advanced foreign language courses taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution.</li> </ol>	3
2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects;</li> <li>4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects;</li> <li>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</li> <li>6) Advanced foreign language courses taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution.</li> </ol>	4