

## PINEY GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Registration Form for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade *Advanced Studies Courses*

2015 - 2016 School Year

#### *Expectations for Students in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade *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.
- Students will participate in academic extra-curricular competitions and/or opportunities for publication throughout the school year (Ex. Science Competition, Social Science Fair, Oratorical Contest, Young Georgia Authors, Math Club and Math competitions, Academic Bowl competitions, VEX Robotics competitions, outside writing contests, etc.). Students can expect to work on these activities outside of class. Seventh and eighth grade students taking only one Advanced Studies course are required to participate in 1 academic extra-curricular competition; those taking two or more Advanced Studies courses are required to participate in 2 academic extra-curricular competitions.
- 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.
- Students will be engaged more in 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.
- 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*

- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.*

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2015 - 2016 School Year

*\*\*\* This Registration Form must be submitted to the PGMS front office  
no later than FRIDAY, MARCH 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM \*\*\**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Studies Courses (Please Check the Course(s) for Which You Want to Register)

\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Language Arts Course

\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Social Studies Course

\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Mathematics Course

\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Physical Science Course

For The Student

After carefully considering all of the information, I want to take on the rigor and challenge of an Advanced Studies Course in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I fully understand the expectations and the commitment I must make to this class, and pledge to do so throughout the 2015 - 2016 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

For The Parent(s)

After carefully considering all of the information, I fully support my son/daughter taking on the rigor and challenge of an Advanced Studies Course in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I fully understand the expectations for Piney Grove Advanced Studies Courses, and am truly committed to supporting my child in the work he/she will be asked to do throughout the year. Furthermore, I expect my son/daughter to be challenged in an Advanced Studies Course, and recognize the fact that learning to work through frustration when building new skills, learning new concepts, and/or problem solving new situations is advantageous to his/her positive academic development. I pledge that I will help foster within my child the perseverance and grit needed to overcome such challenges.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)