



Riverwatch Middle School

“Together we LEAD”

Learn

Exceed

Achieve

Dream

Our Mission

The mission of Riverwatch Middle School is to encourage all students to reach their maximum potential by providing high quality instruction, focusing on 21st century skills, nurturing healthy relationships and community ties, and fostering well-rounded, life-long learners.

Healthy, Happy, Hardy

- A **happy** environment is one in which **positive communication** between all stakeholders is a priority so that everyone feels their work is acknowledged and their time is valued.
- A **healthy** environment is one in which common goals among all stakeholders are met using a **support system**, understanding the purpose of work, and nurturing self and others.
- A **hardy** environment is one which our **resiliency** allows us to overcome challenges, is a product of the support from others, and helps us to maintain balance and flexibility.

Class Overview

- 8th grade Core Classes
 - Math, Advanced Math, or *Accelerated Math
 - *Science or *Advanced Science
 - Language Arts or Advanced Language Arts
 - Social Studies or Advanced Social Studies
 - *Spanish or Math Literacy
- 8th Grade Connections Classes
 - PE/Health
 - Strength and Conditioning
 - Art
 - *Band
 - *Chorus
 - Business and Marketing with Engineering Technology
 - Yearbook
 - Media Tech

** Denotes Courses for High School Credit*

High School Credit

- Students will have their numerical grade posted to their transcript. This grade is NOT calculated into high school GPA or class ranking.
- The middle school course must meet the standards of the respective high school course.

How are Advanced classes different?

- ☐ Writing expectations are more rigorous in advanced classes.
- ☐ Students should be independent note takers and study from these notes without aid of a study guide.
- ☐ Expectations for self-advocacy are increased.

Math

❖ On-level

Covers entire 8th grade curriculum.

Students will need to ask questions and come in as needed for extra help.

Increased importance of practicing concepts learned .

Students should review daily however review will be done prior to assessments in class.

❖ Advanced

Covers entire 8th grade curriculum as well as advanced standards set by the county.

Students must take initiative and responsibility for their own learning.

Minimal review for standards prior to assessments.

❖ Accelerated

7th grade Accelerated is a prerequisite.

Covers Coordinate Algebra and half of Analytic Geometry.

EOCT worth 20% of Course Average.

New material will be learned each day with minimal review time prior to assessments.

Rigorous and task-based curriculum.

Students must be self-motivated and desire to take multiple AP classes in high school.

Science

On-Level

- ❑ Follows both the Georgia Performance Standards and the Physical Science Standards for the Georgia EOC
- ❑ Topics include: Motion, Force, Work, Simple Machines, Energy, Waves, Sound and the Electromagnetic Spectrum, Matter, Phases of Matter, Exploring the Periodic Table, Atoms, Bonding, Chemical Reactions, and Acids and Bases.
- ❑ Performance Based activities will be added to enhance mastery of the standards such as laboratory experiments and investigations

Advanced

- ❑ Advanced will cover all of the topics in the On-level Physical Science course.
- ❑ *Students should have Accelerated Math or Advanced Math in the 7th grade due to more in-depth exploration of the concepts in Physical Science using mathematic concepts.*
- ❑ The pacing of topics will be at a more condensed fashion.

On-Level Language Arts

- Preparation for CRCT Reading and ELA
 - Novel studies, short stories, poetry, and non fiction
 - Grammar – review of basic skills with intense application of on-level standards through writing
 - Scope magazine–reinforcement of non-fiction, grammar and writing
- Preparation for Georgia Writing Assessment and LHS World Literature
 - Expect 9-10 expository and persuasive essays between August and January including 3 timed, summative essays
 - 3-4 Response to Literature pieces between January and May
- Students should expect homework every night
- Students will be required to read an independent novel each 9 weeks. Students will be encouraged to “Always have a book to read.”

Advanced Language Arts

- Students will complete all of on level course.
 - Wordly Wise Vocabulary– emphasis on usage and application, not recognition of word
 - Students will complete several additional units and projects that will prepare them for the rigor of Honors Literature at LHS.
 - The course will be fast paced with in depth discussions about literature and a heavy use of technology.

Social Studies

□ On-level

- Curriculum content: History, Economics, Geography, and Government of the State of Georgia.
- Students will have nightly homework which will emphasize completion of study guide notes and studying.
- Mini-projects and written responses will also be incorporated throughout the course.

□ Advanced

- Advanced will cover all of the same curriculum content as on-level but topics will be extended to meet the needs of the advanced learner.
- Heavy use of technology for note-taking, activities, and projects.
- Higher level reading material, focused on primary source documents, is used to supplement curriculum topics.

Spanish

- High School Spanish 1
- The eighth grade Spanish course at RMS is the same as the high school Spanish I Georgia Standards Curriculum. Upon successful completion, the students will be eligible to receive one high school credit and be enrolled in Spanish II in high school. Spanish I Georgia Standards focuses on communication (reading, writing, speaking and listening) in the Spanish language. Students will engage in a variety of activities such as projects, short research assignments, group presentations, oral presentations, role-play, dialogues, conversations, skits, writing activities, readings, songs, games, and videos

Academic Supports and Interventions

- ☐ RMS is growing! In an effort to help the school feel smaller and more personal, students will be placed on “teams.” Teams are groups of 5 teachers – LA, Science, Math, and Social Studies who share the same group of 120 students.
- ☐ Morning Help Sessions
- ☐ Relearn and Recovery (R and R)
 - The purpose of relearn and recovery at Riverwatch is to support students in mastering the standards. No two students are alike, so the following is procedural guidelines to the relearn and recovery policy here at Riverwatch. Each teacher has the discretion to do what is best for the individual student.
- ☐ Student Support Team (SST)
- ☐ English as Second Language (ESL)

Math Literacy

- Math Literacy is an extra math class which students take in place of the Spanish class.
- A student's enrollment in Math Literacy is based on CRCT scores and the teacher's recommendation based on class performance.
- Students' grades are primarily based on class participation.
- The class is designed to reinforce on-level content and review and practice basic math computation skills.

Connections Choices

Year-long

Band*

Chorus*

Physical Education

Weight Training

Engineering and Tech

Business Computers

Art

Drama

Health Sciences

Broadcast Journalism



Tech Systems

Parent Portal will be open April 14th
– May 5th for rising 8th grade
students to make their Connections
choices. The instructions for doing
this are posted on the school
website.

* Denotes a High school credit class

Course Change Consideration Form

- ☐ To make any change to the teacher recommendations, please complete the Course Change Consideration form posted on the front page of the RMS website.
- ☐ This form needs to be complete by the end of the day on May 5th.

Questions?

- Thank you for joining us tonight. If you have further questions, please refer to the teacher locations on your agenda. Have a great night!

