

Radnor Middle School Course Level Descriptions

Accelerated Language Arts

Accelerated LA allows high performing, highly motivated, and academically gifted students to pursue rigorous coursework that is two or more years above grade level expectations. Students are admitted to accelerated courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness. This course builds on and extends the range of basic content from the on-grade-level language arts course and pursues skills and content from advanced grade levels. Students in this course will develop advanced skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research. Rigorous in and out of class reading, research, challenging class discussions and a variety of writing experiences will be required. Summer assignments may also be required.

Language Arts

Grade-level Language Arts allows both on- and above- grade-level students to pursue rigorous coursework both at and above grade-level expectations. Students are admitted to these courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness. This course is standard-based and designed to support students in meeting grade-level standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking as well as reaching beyond those standards if they demonstrate readiness. In and out of class reading, research, challenging class discussions and a variety of writing experiences will be required.

Co-Taught Language Arts

Co-taught Language Arts allows on- and above- grade-level students to pursue coursework both at and slightly below grade-level expectations. Students are admitted to these courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness. This course is standard-based and designed to support students in meeting grade-level standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking by providing additional supports such as curricular modifications, accommodations, specially trained staff members, additional staff and other individualized and whole class supports. This course is based on the grade-level core curriculum and is modified or adapted to meet the needs of the individual. In and out of class reading, research, class discussions and a variety of writing experiences will be required.

Intensive Language Arts-Comprehension

Intensive Language Arts Comprehension is specially designed for students for whom reading and/or writing achievement limits their ability to fully benefit from the grade-level language arts course and other content area instruction. For these students, skill deficits in the area of comprehension is the area of greatest need. Students are admitted to these courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness and the course is specially designed to advance reading and writing skills that are below grade-level expectation. The delivery model for this course will include the use of a research-based instructional program, specially trained staff, additional minutes of instruction and specialized technology. Direct instruction and guided practice in comprehension, fluency, phonemic awareness and phonics is aligned with each student's specific areas of need. Students in these courses may be exposed to some of the Radnor Township School District core language arts curriculum but the priority is building skills in reading and written language to ensure future academic success in all areas.

Intensive Language Arts-Decoding

Intensive Language Arts Decoding is specially designed for students for whom reading and/or writing achievement limits their ability to fully benefit from the grade-level language arts course and other content area instruction. For these students, skill deficits in the area of decoding is the area of greatest need. Students are admitted to these courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness and the course is specially designed to advance reading and writing skills that are below grade-level expectation. The delivery model for this course will include the use of research-based instructional programs and specially trained staff and may also offer additional minutes of instruction and specialized technology. Direct instruction and guided practice in phonemic

awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary development and fluency is aligned with each student's specific areas of need. Students in these courses may be exposed to some of the Radnor Township School District core curriculum, but the priority is building skills in reading and written language to ensure future academic success in all areas.

Accelerated Science

Accelerated science courses allow high performing, highly motivated, and academically talented students to pursue rigorous coursework. Students are admitted to accelerated courses based on criteria that consider past performance and demonstrated readiness. Texts and materials used in the course are two or more years above grade level. The accelerated science courses focus on the same major topics as the grade-level courses but move at a faster pace and go into greater depth than the grade-level course. Students will read complex texts, write intensively, and engage in challenging scientific investigations.

Science

Grade-level science courses allow students to pursue coursework at a variety of levels. The sixth grade science course focuses on select Earth Science concepts from Geospheric, Atmospheric, and Astronomical fields of study. The seventh-grade science course focuses on topics from the Life Sciences including the exploration of concepts from the structure and function of organisms, animal diversity, and ecology. The eighth-grade science course lays the foundation for further study of the physical science and includes concepts from both physics (force, motion, waves, and electricity) and chemistry (the nature of matter and interactions between matter and energy). Across all grades, students will engage in reading, writing, class discussions, and projects to develop their understanding of these topics. The curriculum for each course was developed in accordance with state and national science standard documents.

Accelerated Social Studies

Accelerated social studies courses allow high performing, highly motivated, and academically gifted students to pursue rigorous coursework that is two or more years above grade level. Students are admitted to accelerated courses based on criteria that considers past performance and demonstrated readiness. The accelerated social studies courses focus on the same major topics as the grade-level courses but move at a faster pace and go into greater depth than the grade-level course. Students will read complex texts, write intensively, engage in challenging class discussions, and will complete an extensive research project on an historical topic using primary and secondary sources.

Social Studies

Grade-level social studies courses allow students to pursue coursework at a variety of levels. The sixth grade social studies course focuses on the development of ancient world history, the seventh-grade social studies course focuses on U.S. history from colonization through Reconstruction, and the eighth-grade social studies course focuses on U.S. history from the end of Reconstruction through World War II. Students will engage in reading, writing, class discussions, and projects to develop their understanding of social studies and their ability to participate as citizens in a democratic and global community. The curriculum for each course was developed in accordance with the Pennsylvania Standards for Civics and Government, Economics, Geography, and History, and the Common Core Standards.