



Parker Junior High School

2023-24 Course Catalog

English Language Arts

A full year of English is required for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Students are placed in English courses according to the following criteria: English grades in the previous year's course, standardized test scores, and student performance on common assessments. Student placement is reviewed and adjusted when needed.

English: Grades 6, 7, and 8

These classes offer instructions in reading, writing, studying, speaking, listening, thinking, and performing skills. Core materials are the district-adopted curriculum resources. The curriculum follows the grade-level Common Core Standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade, respectively. Students will experience quality literature, grade-level appropriate media, and/or works related to the social science curriculum.

6th Grade Advanced English

This class differentiates the curriculum to accelerate and extend the grade-level English program. The curriculum follows the grade-level Common Core Standards for 6th Grade at an accelerated pace.

7th Grade Advanced English

This class differentiates the curriculum to accelerate and extend the grade-level English program. The curriculum follows the grade-level Common Core Standards for 7th Grade at an accelerated pace.

7th/8th Grade Humanities

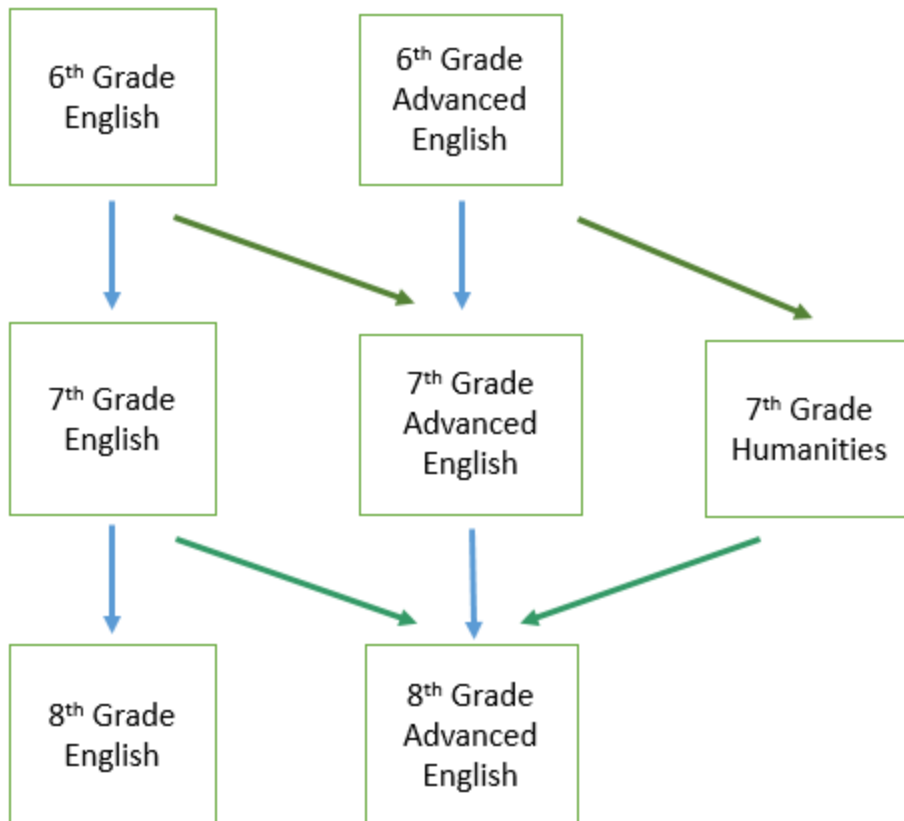
This class differentiates the curriculum to accelerate and extend the grade-level English program. In addition, this class follows the Common Core Standards for 7th-grade students at an accelerated pace with an emphasis on higher-level writing and literary skills.

The humanities class is a double block that combines the English and Social Studies courses. The course will be taught at an accelerated pace and go deeper into the connection between literature, politics, and the culture of the time. This will be through primary documents,

contemporary stories and novels, and student-led research. This course is targeted at students in the 90th percentile or higher on the NWEA MAP reading assessment.

8th Grade Advanced English Language Arts

This class differentiates the curriculum to accelerate and extend the grade-level English program. The curriculum follows the grade-level Common Core Standards for 8th grade at an accelerated pace.



Mathematics

A full year of mathematics is required for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Students are placed in math courses according to the following criteria: math grade in the previous year's course, standardized test scores, and student performance on common assessments. Student placement is reviewed and adjusted when needed.

6th Grade Math

Teaching and Learning will focus on the 6th Grade CCSS. Some topics include: proportional thinking and using concepts of ratio to solve problems, extending the number to the system of rational numbers, including negative numbers, and comparing integer values, compute fluently using common factors and multiples, extend previous understandings to divide fractions by fractions, rational numbers including the four operations with fractions, writing, interpreting, solving, and using expressions and 1-step equations with whole numbers, real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface and area and volume including the use of the coordinate plane, and developing an understanding of statistical thinking.

6th Grade Advanced Math

Teaching and Learning will focus on the 6th Grade CCSS and some of the 7th Grade CCSS. Some topics include proportional thinking, scale drawings, using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems, operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide, extending understanding of rational numbers including the four operations of integers, fractions, and percents, conversions between fractions, decimals, and percents and using the concepts to solve problems, real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface, area, and volume (rectangular prisms), including the use of the coordinate plane. Writing, interpreting, and solving expressions and 1-step equations with rational numbers, and developing an understanding of statistical thinking, including inferences about a population and using probability models.

7th Grade Math

Teaching and Learning will focus on the 7th Grade CCSS. Some topics include proportional relationships, including scale drawings to solve real-world problems; operations and applications of fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide; writing, interpreting, solving, and using expressions and equations as solutions to problems, real-world mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface, area, and volume, including the use of the coordinate plane. Writing, interpreting, solving, and using expressions and equations as solutions to problems, statistics including inferences about a population, and using probability models.

7th Grade Advanced Math

Teaching and Learning will focus on the 7th Grade CCSS and 8th-grade CCSS, including pre-Algebra skills. Some topics include proportional relationships, including scale drawings to solve real-world problems; real-world mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume of 3D figures; transformations of figures, writing, interpreting, and solving multi-step equations, integers, fractions, decimals, factorization of neutral numbers, absolute value equations, and compound inequalities as solutions to problems, investigation of graphs using a table of values and the coordinate plane, real numbers including exponents, square roots, integer exponents, and scientific notation, percents, and percent of change. Statistics, including inferences about a population, random sampling, compound events, and scatter plots.

8th Grade Math

Teaching and Learning will focus on the 8th Grade CCSS and include some pre-algebra and algebra skills. Some topics covered include: solving equations, graphs, tables, and equations of lines, solving systems of equations, functions, and exponents, Pythagorean Theorem, surface area, and volume, transformations and similarity, real numbers, factoring, and polynomial operations.

8th Grade Algebra

Teaching and Learning will focus on the Algebra 1 CCSS. Some topics covered include linear equations, systems, and equations, applications and graphs, quadratic equations, operations of polynomials, applications, and graphs, simplifying, operations, exponential functions and decay, operations of monomials, multiple methods to calculate slope & y-intercept, connections to rate and speed, data collection tables, patterns of growth, the notation for sequencing; two-variable data, correlation coefficients, analyzing residual plots; parabola sketches, x-intercept, vertex, and use of square root, linear & nonlinear inequalities, real-world problems, graphs and analysis, and speed and accuracy of each skill as mentioned above.

Honors Algebra I - High School Algebra [Homewood Flossmoor High School Course]

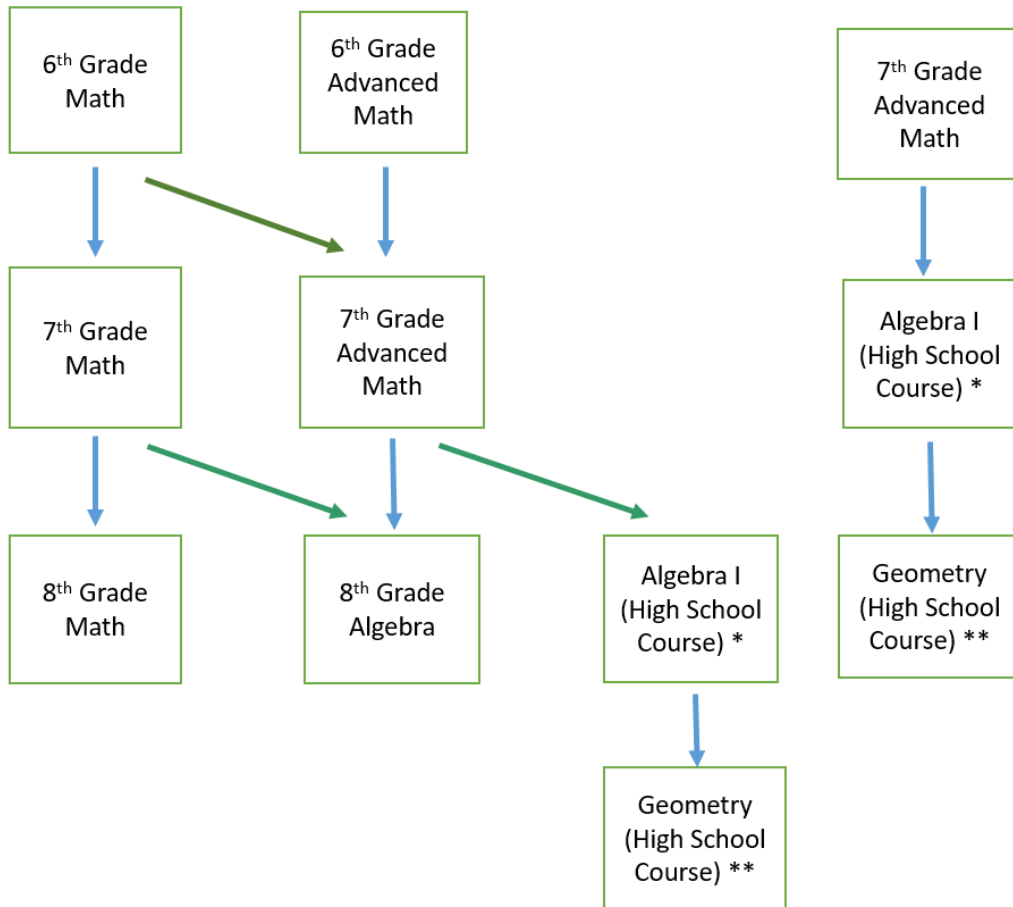
Algebra Honors is a Homewood Flossmoor High School course taught at Parker. Topics covered this year include Applying knowledge of arithmetic, exponents, and solving equations to solve real-world problems, graphing and writing linear equations, understanding functions and how they relate to the real world, solving linear systems using a variety of different methods, learning to write, solve and graph linear inequalities, expand their knowledge about polynomial functions, factor and be able to explain why factoring is a vital part of mathematics, explore, discover and apply rational expressions, complete a variety of different operations with radical expressions, solve quadratics using a variety of different methods. **The HF Honors Algebra course is taught at Parker Junior High School using the HF curriculum.**

Geometry - High School Geometry Course [Homewood Flossmoor High School Course]**

Geometry Honors is a Homewood Flossmoor High School course, and students will receive instruction at Homewood-Flossmoor High School. It is extremely rigorous and fast-paced. Students should have a solid algebra background. Also, students should be highly motivated and be able to work independently. First Semester focuses on an introduction to geometry, basic concepts and proofs, congruent triangles, transformations, lines in the plane, parallel lines and related figures, polygons-quadrilaterals, and triangles. Second-semester focuses on similar polygons, the Pythagorean Theorem, trigonometry, circle, area, surface area, volume, and

coordinate geometry. **The Geometry course is taught at Homewood Flossmoor High School.**

*Honors Algebra I is a prerequisite for Honors Geometry.



*Algebra I - High School Level Honors Algebra I Course

- This course is taught at Parker Junior High School
- Students need to meet the following for this course:
- 75th percentile or higher on the NWEA MAP mathematics assessment
- 75% or higher on the Algebra placement test
- A - B average in math courses including common assessments

** Geometry - High School Level Geometry Course

- This course is taught at Homewood Flossmoor High School

- The Honors Algebra I course is a prerequisite for taking Geometry.

Advisory Class

The advisory class will focus on instructional routines including study skills, goal setting, grade checks, note-taking, conflict management, and digital citizenship. The advisory class will also engage students in Social and Emotional Learning [SEL] activities on conflict management, digital citizenship, and communication skills.

Leadworthy

The Leadworthy course is an extension of the school-wide Capturing Kids' Hearts program that helps junior high school students develop stronger relationships with each other and a healthy self-concept through self-expression, public speaking, problem-solving, and personal responsibility activities. The course follows a semester-long structure and follows a detailed curriculum that develops the following skills:

- Recognize and resist peer pressure
- Understand how to manage and positively utilize social media
- Develop leadership skills through community service
- Develop public speaking skills
- Improve emotional intelligence and empathy toward others
- The Leadworthy class is offered to select students and is taught during the W.I.N. class period.

Science

In accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards, the Middle School science curriculum incorporates an integrated format. Each grade level touches upon content across different scientific disciplines and focuses on the overall development of useful scientific skills and critical thinking. Scientific Inquiry is an ongoing skill practiced throughout the school year.

6th Grade Science

In this course, students will focus on Research/Classification strategies, Building skills, Structure of the Earth/Plate tectonics, Astronomy, Geology, Environmental/Energy resources, and Earth's place in space and movement.

7th Grade Science

In this course, students will focus on research strategies and how to cite sources, Characteristics of life, Organization of life, Cells, and Genetics. (Grade level and advanced classes)

8th Grade Science

The eighth science curriculum focuses on the knowledge and application of the scientific method across the content areas of Laws of Motion, Sound and light, Thermal energy, States of matter, Understanding the atom, and Elements and chemical bonds. (Grade level and advanced classes)

Social Studies

The middle school standards are banded by levels of complexity rather than grade levels. Because most social science classrooms consist of a wide array of ability levels and challenges, a complexity continuum was developed to meet the varying cognitive needs of adolescents and address the range of difficulties of the standards.

6th Grade focus: Geography / Early Humans, Africa (Egypt and African Kingdoms), Europe (Greece and Rome), Asia (India, China, and Japan), and the Americas (Mesoamerica)

7th Grade focus: Road to Revolution, Chicago History, Framing our Democracy, Manifest Destiny, Division and Revolution, Industrial Revolution. (Grade level and advanced classes)

8th Grade focus: World War I, Boom and Bust, World War II, Cold War, and Civil Rights (Grade level and advanced classes)

World Languages

World Language courses are offered during 8th grade.

Spanish and French Introduction Courses

The World Language Introduction course will provide students with foundational skills development in Spanish and French. The courses will introduce students to language concepts and will be designed to develop student's knowledge and skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing with an emphasis on oral language through thematic units. This is a year-long course teaching Spanish or French during the 8th-grade year.

Honors Spanish I* [Homewood Flossmoor High School Course]

Honors Spanish is intended to develop the language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, at a rapid pace. At the completion of this course, students are expected to comprehend and produce Spanish within the range of vocabulary and constructions covered during the year; to speak with reasonable control of the sounds of Spanish, and to put into writing with appropriate accuracy the sentences and ideas that the student can express orally. Students will become familiar with the various aspects of Hispanic cultures. Spanish 1H includes supplementary reading and conversational work. **The HF Honors Spanish course is taught at Parker Junior High School using the HF curriculum.**

***Honors French I - [Homewood Flossmoor High School Course]**

This course approaches the study of French through four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Content includes dialogues, supplementary vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar exercises, with the culture of French-speaking countries being central to all activities. Students are expected to comprehend and produce French within the range of vocabulary and construction covered during the year. The cumulative nature of studying French requires daily

preparation and consistent study and is, therefore, essential to success in this course. **The HF Honors French course is taught at Parker Junior High School using the HF curriculum.**

***Mandarin - [Homewood Flossmoor High School Course]**

Mandarin Chinese 1 is an introduction to the Mandarin Chinese language and culture. The four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are developed. Students will participate actively and cooperatively in classroom activities, engage in guided conversations, and write utilizing familiar vocabulary and structures. Cultural information about daily life and social customs is integrated into the curriculum throughout the year, and students will also begin to learn about the geography of China. Students will be evaluated primarily on their knowledge of the Mandarin Chinese language and culture and on their ability to understand and communicate in Mandarin Chinese. **The HF Mandarin course is taught at Homewood Flossmoor High School.**

Honors High School Courses

Students who complete high school level courses (Honors Algebra I, Honors Geometry, Honors Spanish I, Honors French I, and Mandarin) successfully will receive a transcript notation on their high school transcript. **Students will not receive high school credit for these courses. (Homewood Flossmoor High School Policy 7560).**

Physical Education and Encore Classes

A full year of Physical Education is required for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Each quarter students rotate through encore classes, which include Industrial Technology / FUSE, Health, Vocal Music, and Art.

Physical Education

6th-8th Grade Physical Education

All grade levels will be involved in 3-week units throughout the year covering many team games and activities. Fitness days, fitness testing, and team-building activities will also be covered. Students will learn and build on physical skills as well as game strategies and concepts.

Advancement Via Individual Determination [AVID]

The AVID Elective is the core of the AVID program. The AVID class targets students in the academic middle with the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. The class is offered to students who are capable of completing a rigorous curriculum with the support of the AVID Elective class.

The AVID Elective class places these students on the college track, requiring students to enroll in the most rigorous courses that are appropriate for them, such as Honors or advanced-level classes. To support them in the rigorous coursework, AVID students learn organizational and study skills, develop critical thinking, learn to ask probing questions, receive academic help from peers/tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities to make their college dreams a reality.

Industrial Technology & FUSE

Woodshop

In this course, students will interact with hand and power tools to create woodworking projects specific to their grade level. They will use measurement, planning, and problem-solving skills throughout the building process to complete the wood projects.

FUSE

In the FUSE class students will choose design challenges from a variety of fields, such as electronics, robotics, architecture, sound mixing, game design, or fashion design to create products that use STEAM-based practices (science, technology, engineering, arts/design, and

mathematics) and develop problem-solving, creativity, and persistence. The challenges, developed by researchers and educators at Northwestern University, are open-ended and student-driven, encouraging independent and collaborative problem-solving. The FUSE course helps students develop important 21st-century skills, discover new interests, and find new confidence and enjoyment in Learning.

Vocal Music

6th Grade Music

Vocal music class engages students in listening to music, playing music, and discussing:

- what we hear
- learning to read music
- writing music of our own!
- Students will learn how to play music on the ukulele and how chords and notes come together to create songs.

7th Grade Music

Students will learn effective practice skills and basic ukulele techniques. Students will survey a wide variety of musical genres and learn basic performance practices in each, through finger-picking, chord strumming, and ensemble playing.

8th Grade Music

What does it mean to be a responsible consumer of music in the 21st century? Students will learn how copyright laws have affected creativity and influenced new ways of producing music like sampling. Students will learn about the eight musical elements. The class will culminate in a 3-week long research project in which students write, record, and produce a podcast about a genre of music of their choice.

Art

6th Grade Art

The 6th-grade art course is a nine-week class covering the essential elements and principles of art. Included in this experience are projects in the areas of painting, drawing, and ceramics as well as various sketches and written assignments.

7th Grade Art

The 7th-grade art course is a nine-week class covering a variety of principles and elements of art. Included in this experience are projects in the areas of painting, drawing and ceramics, and sculpture. Students will also explore various artists and styles of art, including the works of Louise Nevelson, Vincent Van Gogh, and Frank Stella.

8th Grade Art

The 8th-grade art course is a nine-week class covering a variety of principles and elements of art. Through the study of various artists/styles, including Roy Lichtenstein and the Pop Art era, students will create projects in painting, drawing, and ceramics.

Gifted Art

The Gifted Art program is a 9-week course designed to allow students to further explore various styles and techniques through Ceramics, Artistic Styles, media, and Artists. Students will be given broader criteria for projects and a wide range of media and techniques. In addition to artwork production, ACE students will also be attending a class field to the Art Institute of Chicago with special emphasis being placed on the Impressionist exhibit. They will use the opportunity to gather information about various Impressionist painters to base paintings of their own on when they return to class. The culminating event for ACE students is The Visual Arts Expo, where students will be submitting their Impressionist and Clay pieces for the EXPO/student reception.

Health

6th Grade Health

In this course, students will learn about responsibility, decision-making, mental/emotional health, adolescence and puberty, human reproduction, and tobacco. Some activities/projects include an emotion analysis, character analysis, Bucket Story, and a vocabulary project.

7th Grade Health

In this course, students will learn about the health triangle, substance abuse, family/friend relationships, and HIV/AIDS. Some activities/projects include a vocabulary project, a family poster, and various learning tasks to understand the dangers of drug usage.

8th Grade Health

In this course, your child will learn about dating violence, the health triangle, diet and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, human reproduction, and teenage pregnancy. Some activities/projects include analyzing various examples of dating violence and making healthy food choices.

Assessment Score Keys

The tables below provide the NWEA score ranges to allow for guidance on course placement. Student placement is adjusted when needed. NWEA MAP scores are one data point used to determine student course placement. Other data points include student grades, common assessments, and teacher input.

6th Grade NWEA MAP Score (Students entering 6th Grade based on the 5th Grade Spring MAP scores)

Percentile Range	Reading Course	Math Course
0-75	English 6	6th Grade Math
76-89	English 6 Advanced	6th Grade Advanced Math

7th Grade NWEA MAP Score

Percentile Range	Reading Course	Math Course
0-75	English 7	7th Grade Math
76-89	English 7 Advanced	7th Grade Math Advanced
90-100	Humanities	Algebra I (High School) *
Honors Algebra I Prerequisite		Honors Geometry (High School Course)

8th Grade NWEA MAP Score

Percentile Range	Reading Course	Math Course
0-75	English 8	8th Grade Math
76-100	English 8 Advanced	8th Grade Advanced Math
		Honors Algebra I (High School Course)
Honors Algebra I Prerequisite		Geometry (High School Course) *

*Honors Algebra I is a prerequisite for taking Honors Geometry

8th Grade World Languages

Percentile Range	Spanish Language Course	French Language Course
0-75	Introduction to Spanish	Introduction to French
76-100	Honors Spanish (High School Course)	Honors French (High School Course)