

Registration Information for Parents and Students – Grade 8

READING IMPROVEMENT CLASS

- A student's placement in the full year Reading Improvement class is determined by the current-year TAKS reading test results. Students who do not meet the standard on the TAKS reading test will be placed in this reading class. If room permits, students who come "close" to not meeting the standard in reading may also be placed in the class. TAKS results are mailed home to parents in June. Students coming from out-of-state schools or Texas non-public schools for whom a TAKS reading score is not available will be placed in this class if the student has scores below the 40% on the reading subtest of a recent nationally-recognized achievement test. This class is designed to give extra support and instruction in reading. Parents of students needing this class will receive a letter from the counselor regarding their child's placement in this class.

NOTE: To be promoted to the ninth grade, students in grade 8 must meet the standard on both the TAKS 8 math test and the TAKS 8 reading test.

MATH PROJECTS CLASS

- A student's placement in the one semester Math Projects class is determined by the current-year TAKS math test results. Students who do not meet the standard on the TAKS math test will be placed in the class. If room permits, students who come "close" to not meeting the standard may also be placed in the Math Projects class. TAKS results are mailed home to parents in June. This class is designed to provide extra support and instruction in math reasoning, is a class without additional homework, and is in addition to the regular math class. To make room for this ½ year class in the student's schedule, the student will not take part of his/her elective. Parents of students needing this class will receive a letter from the counselor regarding their child's placement in this class.

NOTE: To be promoted to the ninth grade, students in grade 8 must meet the standard on both the TAKS 8 math test and the TAKS 8 reading test.

HONORS CLASSES AND HONORS CRITERIA

- **Teacher recommendation/teacher signature on the registration card is necessary for placement in an honors class.**
- A student currently in a regular class who requests a teacher recommendation for an honors class needs to have a cumulative "A" average at the time of registration and needs to have earned a "COMMENDED" designation on the TAKS testing in the appropriate area (i.e. TAKS reading for the Language Arts honors classes and the social studies/history honors classes/TAKS math results for honors math classes). At student request, a student who has not received the teacher recommendation at the time of registration may ask the teacher for "reconsideration" for the recommendation based on the current-year TAKS results mailed to parents in June. For students coming from out-of-state schools or non-public Texas schools, recent nationally recognized achievement test results at 90% can be used for honors consideration. Additionally, students requesting consideration for honors classes should be more self-directed and independent learners who have demonstrated higher-level, critical thinking skills. In the area of Language Arts, students should demonstrate solid writing skills.
- A student currently enrolled in an honors class must have the teacher recommendation/signature on the registration card to continue in the honors class next year. A student currently enrolled in an honors class should be making satisfactory progress in the class.
- For a student who does not receive the teacher recommendation for an honors class, the student's parent needs to have a conversation with the teacher so the parent is able to make an informed decision regarding whether or not to "over-ride" the teacher's recommendation and "place" the student in the honors class. A student who does not have the teacher's recommendation and is placed in the honors class by parent request is expected to remain in the requested class. This parent request may be attached to the student's registration card.

ELECTIVES

- **Band** is a year-long course for students interested in learning or continuing to learn to play a musical instrument. The band teacher's signature is necessary to enroll in this course. Instruments are rented and are not generally supplied by the school. Most music is supplied by the school; however, some music supplies must be supplied by the student.
- **Choral Music** is a year-long course with the goal of improving singing abilities and increasing the knowledge of music through choral situations. The choir performs concerts and competes in T.M.E.A. and U.I.L. choral events where there is an opportunity to perform and compete individually.
- **Art** is a year-long course where students gain confidence in project development, art history, and art theory.
- **Spanish** is a year-long course for which a student earns a high school credit for Spanish I. Students who are successful in Spanish I have a strong understanding of grammar; therefore, students need the Language Arts teacher's recommendation for the course. At the time of teacher recommendation, the student must have an 85 average for the first semester of Language Arts 7 to receive a recommendation. Eighth grade students may be in class with high school students. The objectives of Spanish I are to develop listening, speaking, and writing skills in Spanish.
- **Theater Arts** is a year-long course consisting of dramatics, improvisation games, and projects. Students will learn basic acting techniques, stage terminology, props and scenery making, and fundamental speaking skills.