

Open Enrollment Intensified Middle School Courses Questions to Guide Families on Course(s) Selection

The following questions are designed to help students determine which middle school courses will be the best fit for their academic and social emotional learning needs within each of these content areas: English, science, and social studies. Math course selection occurs through a separate process and the math course recommendation will be communicated to families.

If a student answers the questions with a “yes,” excitement, and/or confidence in ability during your discussion, then an intensified course might be the right fit within a specific content area or areas.

If a student answers the questions with a “no,” indifference, and/or little confidence in ability during your discussion, then an intensified course might not be the right fit within the specific content area or areas.

As you discuss, please remember:

- Access is open to all students (advanced learners who are twice exceptional (2e), advanced learners who are English Learners, advanced learners from poverty, and underperforming advanced learners) who are ready for a more challenging learning experience.
- Students do not have to be identified as gifted to take an intensified course.
- Students may wish to begin with taking one or two intensified courses instead of all three intensified courses.
- Some students may need advocates who encourage them to take on a more challenging course option.
- Since there are no prerequisites each year, choosing one course option for the upcoming year does not determine course placement for future years. Courses will extend grade level standards rather than teach a grade level above standards.
- All courses will offer opportunities to develop critical and creative thinking skills necessary to succeed in advanced high school courses within the content areas.

General Questions to Consider

- What subject areas do you love?
- What are your areas of strength and areas for growth? (e.g., written/oral communication, study skills/organization, collaborative learner)
- How would you describe your level of motivation?
- How comfortable are you with taking initiative, or exploring ideas on your own?
- What combination of middle school course offerings would you prefer?

English

- Do you enjoy reading? Do you and/or would you enjoy reading multiple genre forms and time periods?
- To what extent do you like to analyze different characters and authors' perspectives and compare them to you, the community, and the world?
- What is your comfort level in actively contributing to class discussions and/or sharing your thoughts through journaling?
- Do you like to write to support understanding and analysis?

Science

- Do you question or wonder how things work?
- Do you often ask questions and then investigate or experiment to answer those questions?
- Do you think about how science impacts your life?
- Are you highly interested in science-related topics (i.e., read/research information/news as self-interest)?

Social Studies

- Do you enjoy following, watching, and/ or discussing the news and current events?
- Do you wonder about ways the economy or the government work and how they impact our daily lives?
- Have you or would you like to be engaged in advocacy for an issue of importance to you? (i.e., community issues like “The Missing Middle”, voter rights, current legislation or Supreme Court cases)
- Do you enjoy reading nonfiction texts to explore perspectives and ideas about our government, our country and the world?

