

At Challenger Middle School, we have two levels of classes in English and history (social sciences): Common Core and Advanced. Common Core classes provide a rigorous curriculum that meet the needs of the majority of students. Students who are very interested in or excel in one or more of these subjects, are encouraged to select Advanced. Both levels will prepare students for an opportunity to participate in Honors/AP at the high school.

Parents have often asked which placement is best for their student. This guide is meant to help direct you to make the best choice to support your student. Middle school represents foundational skill building and appropriate placement is essential.

Please take the time to review the following descriptions with your student to make an informed decision about placement. As a reminder, Common Core and Advanced classes are not whole programs - it is likely your child will consider an Advanced class the appropriate placement for one subject, but not another subject. Rarely are students passionate about all subject areas. Your student's counselor is available to help guide your decision-making around Common Core and Advanced classes. In addition, your student's current teacher is a resource to help guide your thinking. Changes to placement after the school year begins is dependent on space and might not be possible.

Common Core

- Reads outside of school with the prompting of a parent
- Does writing assignments when assigned in class
- May take notes on a consistent basis in the classroom
- Has emerging organizational skills
- Talks casually about literature/history outside of the classroom
- Appreciates a moderate pace that allows for review
- Enjoys teacher-facilitated discussion in the classroom
- Is directed learners who find joy in exploring inside of the classroom

Advanced

- Reads for enjoyment often outside of school.
- Writes in their free time as a form of recreation
- Understands how to take notes and follow directions without prompting
- Has well developed organizational skills.
- Talks analytically about literature/history outside of the classroom
- Appreciates an accelerated pace and workload in and outside of the classroom
- Enjoys leading discussions within the classroom
- Is a self-directed learner who finds joy in exploring more outside of the classroom