



Advanced Coursework

The purpose of this page is to inform you of the benefits and opportunities for your child to participate in advanced coursework.

While advanced coursework provides an opportunity for your child to gain skills and demonstrate competencies at a higher level, advanced coursework provides other benefits as well. Other benefits of participation in advanced coursework may include:

- improving a student's self-confidence and image of self.
- demonstrating a student's preparedness for college-level coursework.
- earning college credit(s) before graduation.
- reducing future costs for higher education.
- reducing the time the student must spend in secondary and/or post-secondary school.

The advanced courses offered in middle school and high school at Cherry Valley - Springfield Central School in grades 7-12 include:

English:

- English 9 Honors
- English 10 Honors
- English 11 Honors
- AP Language and Composition
- AP Literature and Composition

Math:

- Algebra 1 – Accelerated (8th Grade)
- Geometry Honors
- Algebra 2 Honors
- College Precalculus
- College Calculus
- College Contemporary Math

Science:

- Honors Biology (8th Grade)
- Earth and Space Science Honors
- College Biology
- College Physics

Social Studies:

- Global History Honors
- College U.S. History 1 & 2

World Language:

- Accelerated Spanish 1 (8th grade)
- College Spanish 1 & 2

Art

- Honors Studio Art (8th Grade)
- College Drawing

It is anticipated that these courses will be available to your child in the 2025-2026 school year. Prerequisite information, and eligibility information for the above courses can be found in this document. Please be aware that the availability of course offerings is contingent upon budget approval and availability of qualified staffing.

Our school provides the following support to help students succeed in advanced courses:

- **Accelerated Courses:** Courses in accelerated pathways expose students to concepts at a faster pace and content above grade level. This prepares students for the rigor of future honors courses by exposing them to advanced content and higher-order thinking skills.
- **Extra Help:** Teachers in all content areas in grades 7-12 are available to meet with students during Office Hours, or by appointment for extra help to assist students with concept or skill development in their current courses.
- **Academic Advising and Counseling:** Counselors can meet with families to help students set goals, create action plans, and receive guidance on course selection to ensure they are on track for honors classes.
- **Peer Study Groups:** Students are encouraged to form peer study groups. This can foster collaborative learning and help students understand challenging material through discussion and explanation.
- **Test Preparation:** Opportunities are offered throughout the school year that specifically prepare students for standardized tests (e.g., Regents Review classes, AP review classes, SAT Prep, etc.). Participating in these can improve students' test-taking skills and boost their confidence.

8th Grade Acceleration Opportunities

Accelerated Studio Art

Studio Art is typically taken during the 9th grade year and acts as a prerequisite for most other Art classes. Accelerated Studio Art is intended for students who are dedicated to their visual learning with plans to continue in further Art classes culminating in AP Art or college level offerings in the Senior year. Students will receive one high school credit that will count towards graduation. The grade earned in the class will be on their transcript and count toward their overall GPA.

When: Completion of 7th Grade Curriculum

How: Students will submit a portfolio of completed artworks for consideration by the Art faculty. Art selected for inclusion in the portfolio should demonstrate knowledge and use of materials, techniques, and concepts. Individual pieces may be from class assignments or independent efforts. The following list of work is required:

- Line drawing
- Shaded drawing
- Monochromatic painting
- Illustration drawing
- Artist Statement; 2-6 sentences describing the artwork included
- Independent art works (Optional)

Students will be notified of acceptance before the end of their 7th grade year.

Accelerated Studio Art class curriculum focused on:

- Drawing, painting, illustration, and rendering
- Creative process, how to develop artistic habits, how to maintain a digital portfolio, how to critique your artwork (and classmates' artwork), and how to manage your studio time in class

Accelerated Algebra I Criteria

Algebra is typically a 9th grade mathematics course which culminates in a NYS Algebra Regents Examination in June. Our accelerated program is for 8th grade students who demonstrate advanced levels of mathematical understanding and application. Students will receive one high school credit that will count towards graduation. The grade earned in the class and on the Regents will be on their transcript and count toward their overall GPA.

When: Completion of 7th Grade Curriculum

Who: Students who meet all of the following criteria will be eligible to take Algebra in 8th Grade.

1. Must have a minimum course grade of 88%
2. Must have a minimum exam average of 85%
3. Must have a recommendation from Mathematics Department

Algebra will culminate with a NYS Regents Examination in June.

Honors Biology

Biology is typically a high school science course which culminates in a NYS Biology Regents Examination. Our accelerated program is for 8th grade students who demonstrate exemplary science achievement and who understand the application of biological concepts as well as the processes and mechanisms of scientific inquiry.

Students will receive one high school credit that will count towards graduation. The grade earned in the class and on the Regents will be on their transcript and count toward their overall GPA.

Upon successful completion of 7th grade science students who meet the following criteria will be eligible to participate in Honors Biology:

1. Science course average of 88% or greater
2. Consistently meets deadlines and completes all assignments

Honors Spanish 1

Spanish 1 Honors is an accelerated 8th grade class. Students taking this class will need to pass the class and also the final at the end of the year as directed by the New York State World Language Department. This consists of speaking, reading, writing and listening in Spanish. Students who are selected for this class must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 88% or higher in 7th grade Spanish. This includes passing the 7th grade Final Assessment with a grade of 85% (mastery) or better.
2. Students must be engaged in all aspects of the language in class - speaking, listening, reading and writing.
3. Students must demonstrate a willingness to complete their work on time, and continue to develop their potential in the language.
4. Students must have an excellent attendance record.
5. Students must complete a summer packet that reviews all of the vocabulary and/or grammar from 7th grade as that is necessary for success in Spanish 1.

Students will be notified by the end of their 7th grade year. The summer packet will be distributed to them before the last day of school. The following year, in Honors Spanish 1, there will be a 5 week trial period to assess if the student has been properly placed.

High School Honors, AP, and College Courses

English 9 and 10 Honors:

Description: Honors English is meant to challenge and inspire students to achieve academic excellence and prepare students for higher-level English classes and assessments. Students must demonstrate strong critical thinking skills, and apply these skills to thoughtfully participate in class discussions and express their understanding through writing. Students should have a strong command of writing conventions in order to fully engage with the course content. Students in these courses are genuinely interested in the subject and intend on working towards the following goals: achieving mastery on the Regents exam, taking AP classes, taking the SAT, and attending college. The curriculum for each class is significantly more rigorous than the Regents level course. While preparing to achieve mastery on the NYS Regents exam is a significant goal in each course, English 9 and 10 Honors will also challenge students to prepare for more rigorous exams such as the AP Language and Literature tests and the SAT test.

Coursework: Students within Honors English are expected to read and take notes independently, as well as write more developed, complex, and frequent essay responses. Students will read more advanced texts than those found within the Regents level section. While students will engage with texts critically via whole class discussion, students can expect to demonstrate their knowledge predominately through writing. Students will focus on improving their writing skills by responding daily to a variety of texts including: fiction, non-fiction, classic, and contemporary literature.

Assessment: Throughout the year, English 9 and 10 Honors students will complete formative and summative assessments based on the Regents exam and AP exams. Each class will include a rigorous course final that mimics the format of the NYS English Regents Exam. Honors students should be capable of earning an 85% or higher (NYS mastery) on that exam.

Prerequisites:

- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 88% in 8th grade English.
- Students must demonstrate basic control of writing conventions and mechanics and must be capable of independently reading and responding to high school level texts.

Academic Standing: Placement in each Honors course is reviewed after the first 5 week progress report and at the end of the school year. Students must maintain an 85% average, as well as be capable of participating in the course in regards to reading, writing, and attendance.

AP Language and Literature:

The Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition courses are designed to be college level courses. As both courses are collegiate level, the expectations for attendance, participation, and performance are aligned with college courses. Students must demonstrate strong critical thinking skills, and apply these skills to thoughtfully participate in class discussion and express their understanding through writing. Students should have a strong command of writing conventions in order to fully engage with the course content. The curriculum for both courses is significantly more rigorous than Regents level English classes, and there are required summer reading and writing assignments for each AP course.

Coursework:

AP Language and Composition: AP Language and Composition is primarily a course in both effective writing and critical reading. Through the course, students will critically analyze a variety of texts, with a focus on nonfiction prose writing. Understanding a writer's purposeful use of diction and syntax, including the basic components of grammar usage and mechanics, forms the foundation of the course. Students also become sensitive to the characteristics of different rhetorical modes, devices, and strategies used by writers. Students will be expected to read independently in and outside of class and take notes to be prepared for daily class discussion. As the AP test requires three full-length essays, students will be expected to write essays weekly or biweekly.

AP Literature and Composition: AP Literature and Composition students will engage in the careful reading of canonical literature, with an emphasis on taking a critical approach to poetry and fictional prose writing. Students will cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works. Reading assignments will be completed largely outside of class, and students will be expected to take notes to participate in class discussion. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literary works. There is a strong emphasis on writing essays in this course, and students will be expected to write essays weekly or biweekly.

Assessment: At the end of the year, students take the AP examination for an opportunity to earn college credit. While scoring well on the AP exam may grant students college credit at most universities, the most important reason to take the course is to meet personal goals for growth. *Furthermore, students who take the AP Language and Composition course should be prepared to take the NYS English Regents Exam in January rather than June of their 11th grade school year.*

Prerequisites:

- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 88% in 9th and 10th grade English.
- Students must complete a summer reading/writing task.
- Students must demonstrate basic control of writing conventions and mechanics and must be capable of independently reading and responding to college level texts.

Academic Standing: Placement in each AP course is reviewed after the first 5 week progress report and at the end of the school year. Students must maintain an 85% average, as well as be capable of participating in the course in regards to reading, writing, and attendance. Students who successfully complete AP Language and Composition will be strongly considered for recommendation to AP Literature and Composition.

College Biology

College Biology is a dual credit advanced course where students are able to earn 4 credits in first year biology through Herkimer County Community College. The course covers topics including The Sphere of Life (ecology and environmental science), The Language of Life (biochemistry, cell biology and genetics), and The Evolution of Life (evolutionary theory, classification, and human evolution). Equally importantly this course gives the student the opportunity to have the college experience prior to going to college or university. The course is intentionally facilitated as closely to how a college course is presented as possible, primarily utilizing a lecture/ lab teaching style. Students will be expected to be independent learners, meet deadlines, and be responsible for their own learning. Passing Regents Chemistry is a prerequisite for this class, as is an appropriate level of maturity and responsibility which they will demonstrate through a recommendation by one of their science teachers.

Upon completion of Regents Physical Setting: Chemistry students who meet the following criteria will be eligible to participate in College Biology:

1. Pass Physical Setting: Chemistry course
2. Pass Physical Setting: Chemistry Regents exam

Global Studies 9 and 10 Honors

Global Studies 9 and 10 honors is designed to prepare students for college level courses in the subsequent years of high school. Students will be challenged in the areas of content mastery and writing. Students entering these courses should have a strong interest in and knowledge of the content of Social Studies. Also, students will be expected to display a mastery of the conventions of writing. Class participation is essential and required at this level of study. The rigors of the class will demand independence and the ability to move at a swift pace through the curricular content. Students will be preparing for mastery on the Global Studies Regents at the conclusion of Grade 10.

Prerequisites:

- Must have a minimum course grade of 88%
- Must score an 85% or higher on the Final Exam
- Students will be expected to be independent learners as evidenced through ability to read high school level texts, participate in class discussions, and use writing to communicate ideas effectively

Academic Standing: Student progress will be reviewed at the first Five Week Progress Reporting Period. Students will be expected to maintain a minimum average of 88%. Students who progress through the Global Studies Honors courses will be considered for College United States History in Grade 11 and the College Electives offered in Social Studies for Grades 11 and 12.

College U.S. History 1 & 2

College US History is designed to develop the student's understanding of the political, economic, social, and intellectual history of the United States. Emphasis is placed on the European background, the founding of the American colonies, the establishment of a new nation, and the testing of the Union. To examine the reconstruction of the South, the effects of industrialization, the reform movements of the Twentieth Century and the emergence of the United States as a world power. Student participation is a critical part of this course, class discussion and writing skills are honed and deepened through work with primary source documents and analysis. Students prepared to obtain mastery on the US History regents as well as complete a final project for HCCC.

Prerequisites:

- Must have a minimum course grade of 85% in Global II
- Students will be expected to be independent learners as evidenced through ability to read high school level texts, participate in class discussions, and use writing to communicate ideas effectively