

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to middle school science! We hope that the next three years will reward and challenge you. Our science teachers here at Malone Middle School work hard to engage and motivate all students. We strive to offer students engaging labs and lessons that will prepare them for high school science. One way we do this is to offer a select group of students a chance to take Regents Biology in 8th grade. While this accelerated course is not appropriate for all students, it may be a good choice for students who are keenly interested in science, are willing to work exceptionally hard, and are already performing significantly above grade level in both reading and math.

Parents and students should understand that while there are advantages to acceleration (namely, the opportunity to take an additional science course when students are seniors in high school), there are also drawbacks. Students who take Regents courses before they are ready run the risk of scoring lower than they would like on their Regents exams. Only the strongest and most motivated students should consider acceleration.

Prospective students are identified at the end of 6th grade using results from STAR™ Reading and Math assessments. These assessments, given by our math and ELA teachers throughout the year, provide us with an objective way to select students who have the skills needed to succeed in accelerated science. These STAR™ assessments provide us with a way to determine what grade level students are performing on. Students who are not performing *at least* 1.5 grade levels above their current grade in both math and reading will not be considered for acceleration. Students who do not meet this basic requirement will likely struggle in an accelerated environment. Attached is a chart that further details the selection process.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the Middle School (483-7801).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Rogers

Science Department Coordinator
Malone Middle School

Requirements for Inclusion in 7th grade Accelerated Science

Minimum Placement Requirements	Requirement to Remain in the Program	All Other Students (Transfer students and anyone not originally selected in 6 th grade).
Score at least 1.5 Grade Levels Above in both Star Reading and Math ¹	Maintain at least an 85 average.	Minimum 90 science average.
6th Grade STAR™ Math Levels²		
809 or above	Maintain a Star Reading level that is at least 1.5 Grade Levels Above ¹	Score 1.5 grade levels above in Star Math.
70 percentile or above		
8.4 Grade Level or above		
6th Grade STAR™ Reading Levels²		
911 or above	Maintain a Math level that is at least 1.5 Grade Levels Above ¹	Score 1.5 grade levels above in Star Reading.
66 percentile or above		
8.4 Grade Level or above		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If students are to be successfully accelerated in science they must score at least 1.5 grade levels above in both STAR Math and Reading. Students who do not meet this minimum requirement will likely struggle as they encounter increasingly difficult math and reading concepts. 2. Based on a student's best Star scores taken anytime during the 6th grade. 		