Smoke Rise Prep is committed to rigorous academics and works closely to ensure students are placed in courses that best meet their academic needs and challenge them at their personal highest abilities.

**Rigorous Academics are our Standard!** Our teachers follow the Georgia standards and utilize additional resources from the curriculum, online, and professional development. This means that all of our “on grade level” courses are actually taught slightly above grade level and we do our best to push ALL students to their potential and differentiate in class. When students excel in one or more subjects, as evidenced by interim tests, standardized test scores, grades, and teacher recommendations, the offer may be extended to participate in our Advanced Academics Program (AAP).

**Advanced Academics Program** – In addition to our general education classes, SRP is offering the options listed below through our Advanced Academics Program. The AAP provides additional classroom instruction for students to participate in Accelerated, Advanced, and/or High School Courses. These courses are offered at an additional fee which is explained below.

**Advanced**- This option is offered to students who thrive or show above average potential in English Language Arts (ELA). Beginning in 6th grade, students are invited to dive deeper into the language arts curriculum by taking 7th grade ELA. The next year, they will take the 8th grade course and in their 8th grade year, they will take 9th grade Lit for high school credit.

**Accelerated Course** – Currently, Math is the only subject that offers accelerated courses. It covers three courses over a two-year period. In 6th grade, student will take all of 6th grade and 7th grade math. In 7th grade, they will take 8th grade curriculum. In 8th grade, they will take Algebra I for a Carnegie Credit.

**High School Classes** – Ninth grade high school courses are available to 8th grade students who have been offered either acceleration or above grade level courses in 6th or 7th grade. Most students who participate in the Accelerated or Advanced Courses will be in a high school class for that subject when they reach 8th grade. Our current offerings are 9th Grade Lit, Algebra I, and Biology.

**Fees associated with the Advanced Academic Program**

**Advanced, Accelerated, and High School Courses**: Standard tuition plus \*$1000/year per above grade level course.

\*Note: Families will receive a $150/year discount when a student enrolls in two courses and a $250/year discount if enrolling in a third course.

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| --- | --- |
|  | Middle/High Tuition |
| Tuition for instruction in standard classes | $8600 |
| Add-on fee for 1 AAP course | $1000 |
| Add-on fee for 2 AAP courses | $1850 |
| Add-on fee for 3 AAP courses | $2600 |

**Benefits**

**What is the benefit of the Advanced Academics Program for my child?**

The most obvious benefit is that students will enter high school with some credits already on their record. This means that they will require fewer courses in high school, which may open doors for high school internships or dual enrollment in college courses in their senior year.

**Why should my child to participate in dual enrollment?**

If a Harvard-bound student takes advantage of dual enrollment in high school, and they can take a semester fewer college courses at Harvard, your $3,000 investment at SRP just saved you $33,000 in four years! Planning to send your student to something that costs closer to UGA? You still save $10,000 by letting your student leave high school with a half semester of credits under their belt. This is just one of the many benefits to dual enrollment, but most of them will vary in value from family to family. There are many articles written about it online.

**What if I’m not interested in dual enrollment? Are there other benefits?**

We suggest you research the high school your student will be attending. Advanced courses in Middle School can go a long way into getting them into the right high school programs. Students who are applying to magnet programs may have requirements for high school courses in 8th grade. For example, the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology requires a full unit of Carnegie-eligible (high school) Algebra I or higher.  (Students currently taking pre-Algebra, Introduction to Algebra/Geometry, or the equivalent are not eligible.) Advanced/accelerated courses will also help students with immediate placement into honors and high achievement programs in private and public high schools.

**Eligibility**

**Who is Eligible for the Advanced Academics Program?**

The selection criteria varies based on the courses we offer. When we consider placing students in fast paced, accelerated classes we take many factors into consideration. We will look at grades, incoming records, MAP and Milestone scores (or other standardized testing), teacher referrals, intrinsic motivation of the students, behavioral records, etc. Our goal is for students to feel successful and to enjoy learning, so it is imperative that they WANT to be in this course and are willing to work hard to get ahead.

**Dropping Classes/Changing Your Mind**

**Can my student drop an above-grade-level Middle School course or High School course if it becomes too overwhelming?**

Students may drop the course within the first 2 weeks of school or at the turn of the semester only. Students must also maintain a high B average or above to stay in the course and may be removed at the end of each quarter if they are unable to maintain this average. If you have concerns about your student’s ability to maintain their advanced or accelerated courses, speak to your homeroom teacher right away.

**High School Grades/Credits**

**How will the high school courses from Smoke Rise Prep affect my high school grades and/or classes when I go off to high school?**

At the end of the year, students are given the opportunity to accept the grade they received in each high school class as the official grade that will show on their high school transcript. If they choose this grade, this will count as a high school credit for that course. If a student does poorly in the class or does not wish to count the class on their official transcript for any other reason, they may choose NOT to have this count on their high school transcript, and this will only appear as their 8th grade course for that subject. They will need to retake the course in high school.

**How does this affect the HOPE scholarship?**

Accelerated classes taken in middle school affect your high school GPA; however, they are not considered for HOPE scholarship funds.

**Turning Down Advancement Invitations**

Accepting invitations to the Advanced Academic Program is optional but strongly encouraged for students that display potential. Parents must understand that there is an additional fee that comes with these courses and even if their child does poorly, is removed, or opts out, they are responsible for the advanced fees for the year. There are very few exceptions to this. We highly advise that you talk with your child about academic expectations, increased homework load, scholarship opportunities, career goals, and high school and beyond plans before agreeing to sign up for these courses.