A Curriculum Overview

HASP is a Wheeler program intended to meet the academic needs of former Hamilton School students who have matriculated to Wheeler’s Upper School. The goal of the program is to maintain Wheeler’s usual high expectations, but also to accommodate students’ different learning styles. Students in the HASP program are full-status Wheeler Upper School students who, with additional layers of support outlined below, can meet the fundamental requirements of the Upper School curriculum. The school also hopes that the program will promote increased awareness of and responsiveness to learning differences.

HASP students are fully participating members of their Wheeler class, with all the rights and responsibilities that come with membership in that academic community. However, students who have matriculated from Hamilton have well-documented learning differences that require modifications to the Wheeler program, some of which are outlined above. Some students will further benefit from assistive technology. To meet those needs, HASP can make available Kurzweil text-to-voice software and MP3 recordings of textbook reading assignments. Reading fluency training using Read Naturally will also continue for students who did not complete level 8.0 in middle school. Other accommodations such as extended time, preferential seating, spelling waivers, and use of a computer in quizzes and tests are also available to HASP students, as they are to any other Wheeler student with a diagnosed learning difference.

For information on the HASP program, contact David Ahlborn.

HASP Advisory

- Advisory: Students in HASP have the Program Director as a teacher in one major academic subject (currently English) and as an advisor. The Director closely coordinates students’ academic programming with the family and works with their teachers.

HASP History & English

- History and English: All 9th graders take a survey course of the major genres in English and the first half of Modern World History.

HASP Language Arts

- Language Arts Seminar: This is a graded major course that meets four times a week. (The fact that it is weighted as a major course satisfies students’ need to be enrolled in five majors in the absence of a modern language.) In class meetings, HASP students cover topics in study, reading, and writing skills, using assignments that they are already working on in content area classes. Students also use the time to organize their planners and binders, paying special attention to long-term project deadlines. Some portion of each class meeting is also dedicated to answering questions students have about assignments in progress and to preparing for specific assessments.

HASP Math

- Math: Many Hamilton graduates have only taken pre-algebra and a portion of Algebra I by the end of 8th grade. Therefore, a full year integrated mathematics class is offered to those Hamilton students who need it in grade 9 to ensure a solid
foundation in those prerequisite skills.

**HASP Modern Languages**

• Modern Language: Three options exist for HASP students in language:
  -- Take a modern language for a grade.
  -- Take a modern language on a pass/fail basis.
  -- Qualify for a language waiver, based on the recommendation of a recent educational evaluation.

**HASP Science**

• Science: All 9th graders take Environmental Science. A Hamilton student who had a particularly successful middle school career in math and science may be offered the option of taking Advanced Placement Environmental Science, but that decision should be weighed very carefully given the volume of reading assigned.