

## **The Knowsys Middle School College Readiness Courses: enrichment with a long-term impact**

Each course covers ACT/SAT math and verbal content:

- Math concepts appropriate for middle-school students
- ACT/SAT vocabulary
- ACT/SAT reading comprehension passages and questions
- ACT/SAT grammar passages and questions

### **In addition, the course integrates college exploration.**

- PBL (project-based learning)
- Students work in teams to explore various colleges and universities, majors, etc (depending on level).
- See the descriptions on the back for the specifics of each Level's College Exploration project.
- Students present their findings to the class.

### **Target Audience: Advanced Students (rising 6th graders, 7th graders, 8th graders, and 9th graders):**

- The courses provide enrichment and extension to advanced students in the district (e.g., those in the Gifted program, those taking advanced classes, those who participated in the Baylor Talent Identification Program and/or took the SAT, ACT, CRA, or IAR exam as an above-level test).
- The course provides an advanced academic opportunity within the district.

### **Course Levels:**

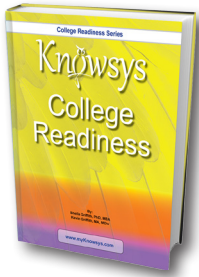
- The Yellow level is designed specifically for rising 6th graders.
- The Red, Green, and Blue levels are designed for rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. The levels are not hierarchical; no level is a prerequisite for another level. No level is harder. All focus on the middle-school level math that is tested on the SAT, PSAT, and ACT exams. The goal is to ensure student mastery and to extend the concept mastery to the application level at which it will be tested on the high-school exams. All reading and grammar passages are structured like those on the high-school exams and focus on the concepts tested on the SAT, PSAT, and ACT.
- The four different levels contain different content (see descriptions on the back) so students can participate in all four levels for four consecutive summers and enjoy distinct material and challenges.

**Instructional Materials:** Knowsys *College Readiness Workbook*: Yellow, Red, Green, or Blue

**Recommended Professional Development:** Full-day training (half math/half verbal)

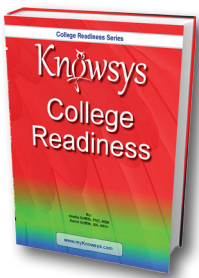
Each book is structured the same way, with College Readiness Math, Verbal, and College Exploration components.

- **Verbal:** Each level contains SAT vocabulary and mastery-level activities, SAT- and ACT-style passages and questions for reading and grammar. Reading comprehension techniques and grammar concepts are interwoven throughout the passages, and concepts are taught within the context of the passages.



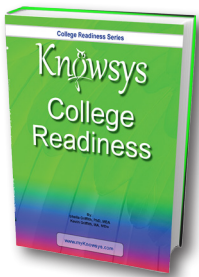
**Yellow: College Readiness Math and Verbal plus an exploration of different college majors. Yellow is designed for Rising 6th Graders.**

- **Math:** Pre-Algebra (rates, ratios, percents, probability, fractions, and decimals), Statistics (averages, median, mode, and range), and Graphs (box plot essentials)
- **College Exploration:** Students discuss majors, minors, and specializations, and then explore one major in depth, creating a presentation that explores annual salaries, projected growth rate of the field, available specializations, top universities, and employment prospects.



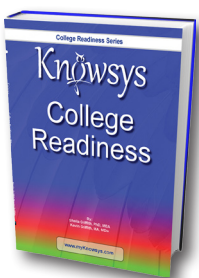
**Red: College Readiness Math and Verbal plus an exploration of different factors to consider when looking for a good college “fit.”**

- **Math:** Pre-Algebra (percents and ratios), Algebra (linear equations), Statistics (averages), and Geometry (lines and angles, triangles, and circles)
- **College Exploration:** Students work in teams to explore universities throughout the U.S. and to evaluate factors such as size, location, extracurricular activities, study abroad programs, etc. that impact each student’s “fit” with any particular university.



**Green: College Readiness Math and Verbal plus an exploration of different factors to consider when selecting a college major.**

- **Math:** Pre-Algebra (integers, digits, prime numbers, factors, multiples, remainders, patterns, rates, and ratios), Algebra (linear equations - interpreting, rearranging, and solving), Statistics (median, mode, range, and standard deviation), and Geometry (quadrilaterals)
- **College Exploration:** Students explore a variety of college majors, including typical college courses associated with those majors, recommended high school courses to prepare for those majors, associated careers paths, and universities that offer those majors.



**Blue: College Readiness Math and Verbal plus create a college readiness “Road Map” using tools from EducationPlanner.org.**

- **Math:** Pre-Algebra (fractions, probability, and direct proportionality), Algebra (linear equations and inequalities - setting up and solving), Statistics (data collection), and Geometry (solids and multiple figures)
- **College Exploration:** Students will use EducationPlanner.org, take a survey of their own interests, personality, and skills, and explore the related careers and educational paths suggested for them.