

## Junior High Honors Courses Indicators for Student Success

Please thoughtfully consider the following criteria as you are making a decision about whether or not junior high honors level courses will provide the most appropriate learning environment. A student should:

1. Typically be performing at **85% or above** on the **Criterion Referenced Test (CRT)** in a specific subject area before considering enrolling in an honors level course in that subject area.
2. Typically be performing in the **80<sup>th</sup> percentile or above** on the **Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)** in a specific subject area before considering enrolling in an honors level course in that subject area (currently, the ITBS is no longer administered, but past scores can be used as a guide).
3. Consistently earn an **“A” or “B” (or a “3” for 6<sup>th</sup> graders)** for the subject in which they desire to take an honors course.
4. Have a **high level of interest** and **strong desire to be challenged** in the subject in which they would like to take an honors course.
5. Consistently exhibit most of the following characteristics:

### Learning/Intellectual Characteristics:

- Enjoys tasks that are more challenging than average
- Has a ready grasp of underlying principles and can quickly make valid generalization about events, people, and things
- Tries to understand complicated material by separating it into its respective parts; reasons things out
- Analyzes problems and considers alternatives
- Enjoys complex concepts and processes

### Motivational/Affective Characteristics:

- Becomes absorbed and truly involved in certain topics or problems
- Needs little external motivation to follow through in work completion
- Often requires little direction from teachers
- Is highly self-motivated and persistent
- Has high expectations of self and others

When deciding whether or not to enroll a student in a particular subject area honors course, please consider the following subject specific characteristics:

### Math/Science:

- Is interested in numerical analysis
- Has a good memory for storing main features of problem and solutions
- Reasons effectively and efficiently
- Organizes data and experiments to discover patterns or relationships
- Is flexible in solving problems

### Social Studies/Language Arts:

- Has advanced vocabulary for age or grade level
- Reads a great deal; does not avoid difficult material
- Enjoys language/verbal or written communication; has advanced communication skills
- Organizes ideas and sequences in preparation for speaking and writing
- Likes study and research in areas of interest