

FSSD Honors Program: an introduction for parents of rising 6th-8th graders



Franklin Special School District
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Administrative Honors Committee

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- FSSD: Dr. Kay Boan, Dr. Mary Decker,
Dr. Cheryl Robey and Dr. Catherine Stephens

Honors Program Grades and Subjects

- **Grades:** 5-8 at Poplar Grove Middle School, Freedom Intermediate School, and Freedom Middle School



- **Subjects:** English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science
 - Algebra I, Geometry, French I-A and I-B, Spanish I-A and I-B (High school credit courses offered in 7-8 grades)

Honors Program Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** To maximize the potential of students who demonstrate outstanding intellectual achievement, performance, and ability by emphasizing in-depth analytical thinking and creative problem-solving.
- **Vision:** Students empowered to acquire the academic skills necessary for success in advanced placement courses.

How Are These Accomplished?

MORE...

- Challenging Tasks
- Rigorous Texts
- Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Compacting of Material
- Coaching Student Responsibility & Ownership
- Experience with Productive Struggle



Characteristics of Students Who are Typically Successful in Honors

- Demonstrates an ongoing ability to actively participate in class and punctually complete advanced level assignments
- Has an innate drive to dig deeper into the content beyond classroom experiences and exposure
- Exhibits sound organizational skills to sustain the brisk pace of rigorous coursework

Myths and Misconceptions of Honors

- MYTH: Honors is a gifted program.
- MISCONCEPTION: Honors classes must be taken if a student qualifies.
- MYTH: Honors students will make all As.
- MISCONCEPTION: Honors guarantees placement in high school Honors and/or Advanced Placement classes.
- MYTH: Honors students are smarter and/or behave better than other students.
- MISCONCEPTION: To take honors classes in high school, a student must be in the FSSD Honors Program.
- MYTH: Honors students are the only students who receive high quality, rigorous instruction.

Honors Program Assessments

- In recent years, Tennessee has moved to a more rigorous standardized assessment aligned to the revised state academic standards.
- The committee has determined that TNReady scores will be used to determine eligibility for ELA & Math Honors.
- Students *not currently* in Honors Science, may take the Science EXPLORE assessment in early February due to the temporary lack of TNReady science scores.
- The *Modern Language Aptitude Test-Elementary (MLAT-E)* and *Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT)* will be administered as the assessments for admission into world language courses and Algebra I for high school credit for 2020-2021.
- Letters will be coming home soon and you must **opt out** if you do not want your child to take these tests.

Qualifying Scores for 2020-2021

	Honors (ELA)	Honors Math	Algebra I	Honors Science
Rising 6 th	2019 TNReady score TBD	2019 TNReady score TBD	X	EXPLORE cut score TBD
Rising 7 th	2019 TNReady score TBD <hr/> World Language: MLAT-E: TBD	2019 TNReady score TBD <u>OR</u> IAAT: TBD	IAAT: TBD	EXPLORE cut score TBD
Rising 8 th	2019 TNReady score TBD	X	IAAT: TBD	EXPLORE cut score TBD

Please note:

Qualifying cut scores are established annually based on the tested cohort.

Honors Program Timeline

- The MLAT-E, IAAT and EXPLORE Science will be administered February 6 - 10.
- Parents of rising 6th graders will be notified by mail about scores and acceptance into Honors classes by the end of March.
- Parents of rising 7th and 8th graders will be notified by mail about scores and acceptance into Honors and high school credit classes by the end of March.
- School level meetings will be held in March and April.
 - FIS: March 26, 6:30
6:00
 - FMS: April 7,
 - PGMS: April 7, 6:00 (6th), 6:45 (7th and 8th)

Additional Considerations for Acceptance into Honors

- If a student does not make the qualifying cut score, it is the responsibility of the parent to request reconsideration.
- During the reconsideration process, the school administrator will collect data from STAR Reading and/or i-Ready Math, and previous teachers.
- If a student meets both of the data points for reconsideration and space is available, the student will be given the opportunity to enroll in Honors classes.
- Reconsideration Request Forms must be returned to your child's 2020-2021 school by May 15, 2020.

Final Considerations for Acceptance into Honors

- If a student does not meet the requirements through reconsideration, the parent may request a meeting to discuss the override option with the administration at the school the student will attend in 2020-2021.
- The parent and administrator will examine multiple sources of data to ensure the parent makes the most appropriate decision for his or her child.

Additional information about the Honors Program

- It is important that the Honors program classes maintain a level of integrity and rigor by requiring that students actively participate, complete assignments, and maintain a grade of B or above.
- If a student's grade falls below 86% (81% for Algebra, Geometry, or World Language), the student is placed on Academic Probation.
- The Parent Commitment Form for each class explains the process of academic probation.

Useful Websites

- **FSSD Program:** <http://www.fssd.org> Under Parents and Students, go to Parent Information, then to Curriculum/Instruction and click on the Honors Program tab. Qualifying cut scores will be updated in the spring.
- **IAAT practice:** Find more information at <https://www.edinaschools.org/cms/lib07/MN01909547/Centricity/Domain/115/iaat.pdf>
- **MLAT-E practice:** For practice items, check on <http://l1tf.net/aptitude-tests/language-aptitude-tests/mlat-elementary/mlat-e-sample-items/>

Administrative Honors Committee

For more information or questions, please contact
the principal at your child's 2020-2021 school
(Dr. Farmer, Dr. Hoag or Mr. Treadway)

OR

Dr. Boan at boankay@fssd.org or 615-794-6624.

