

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Course Information

*Participation in honors level classes at the junior high level can help students prepare for more rigorous courses in high school. These high school advanced courses, in turn, can prepare students to do better on the ACT, SAT, or other college entrance exams, as well as to succeed in high school and college course work.*

**Honors English** is a course rich in discussion, challenging concepts, and exploration of ideas. The learning focus is on skills and content in reading fiction and informational texts. Additionally, students will expand and increase skills in argumentative, informational, and narrative writing. Students will also participate in collaborative learning, analyzing and evaluating texts and presentations, and lessons focused on the conventions of standard English. This course will go more in-depth on some activities, which will increase the pace and homework compared to traditional English.

**Reading:** Texts read in Honors English 7 will be complex in content and structure. Texts will be evaluated, discussed, and compared. Each text will be looked at in depth by the students and the focus will be beyond mere comprehension. Lengthier texts include science fiction, Shakespearean stage play, historical nonfiction, world literature, and realistic contemporary fiction. Shorter texts will be read in the above genres, as well as in informational and nonfiction texts such as articles, opinion pieces, biographical and autobiographical texts, and other works.

**Writing:** Argumentative and informational writing is stressed in this course. The topics tend to be current events and/or related to the class reading at the time of each essay. Students will use the writing process, including peer review, revising, and editing. For argumentative writing, articles of varying stances will be read, evaluated and discussed in order to formulate strong stances for each student's writing. Additionally, narrative and reflective writing will occur throughout the course.

**Honors Integrated Science** will have additional requirements that go beyond the basic curriculum. The honors lessons will be set up in a separate Canvas module each term. As students finish the Canvas module, the teacher will have the honors designation added to their transcript. It is available for all students.

## 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 for your child. Read over this form and discuss it with your child. Be confident that they can achieve at the level described. An honors student should meet the following criteria:

1. Typically, be performing at a **3 or 4 proficiency level** on the Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) test in a specific subject area before considering enrolling in an honors level course in that subject area.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Consistently exhibit most of the characteristics described below.
5. Typically, reading and writing at or above grade level.

### Learning/Intellectual Characteristics:

- Enjoys tasks that are more challenging than average
- Has a ready grasp of underlying principles, and can quickly make valid generalizations 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 a problem and its 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 to study and research in areas of interest