



# FSSD Honors Program

Franklin Special School District  
*January 31, 2022*

*An introduction for  
parents of rising  
5th-6th graders*

A decorative border composed of various colorful geometric shapes, including squares, rectangles, and circles, arranged in a pattern that resembles a staircase or a wall of blocks. The colors include red, blue, green, yellow, and orange. The shapes are scattered around the central text area, with some forming larger structures like a staircase on the left and a wall on the right.

# 01. INTRODUCTION

Mission & Contact Information

# Honors Program Mission & 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.

ACCESS + RIGOR = ADVANCEMENT

# Administrative Honors Committee

## **FREEDOM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**



Dr. Joel Hoag (Principal)  
Mrs. Tracie Gallon (AP)

## **POPLAR GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL**



Dr. Chris Treadway (Principal)  
Dr. JP Orman (AP)



## **FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Dr. Charles Farmer (Principal)  
Dr. Amanda Muniz (AP)

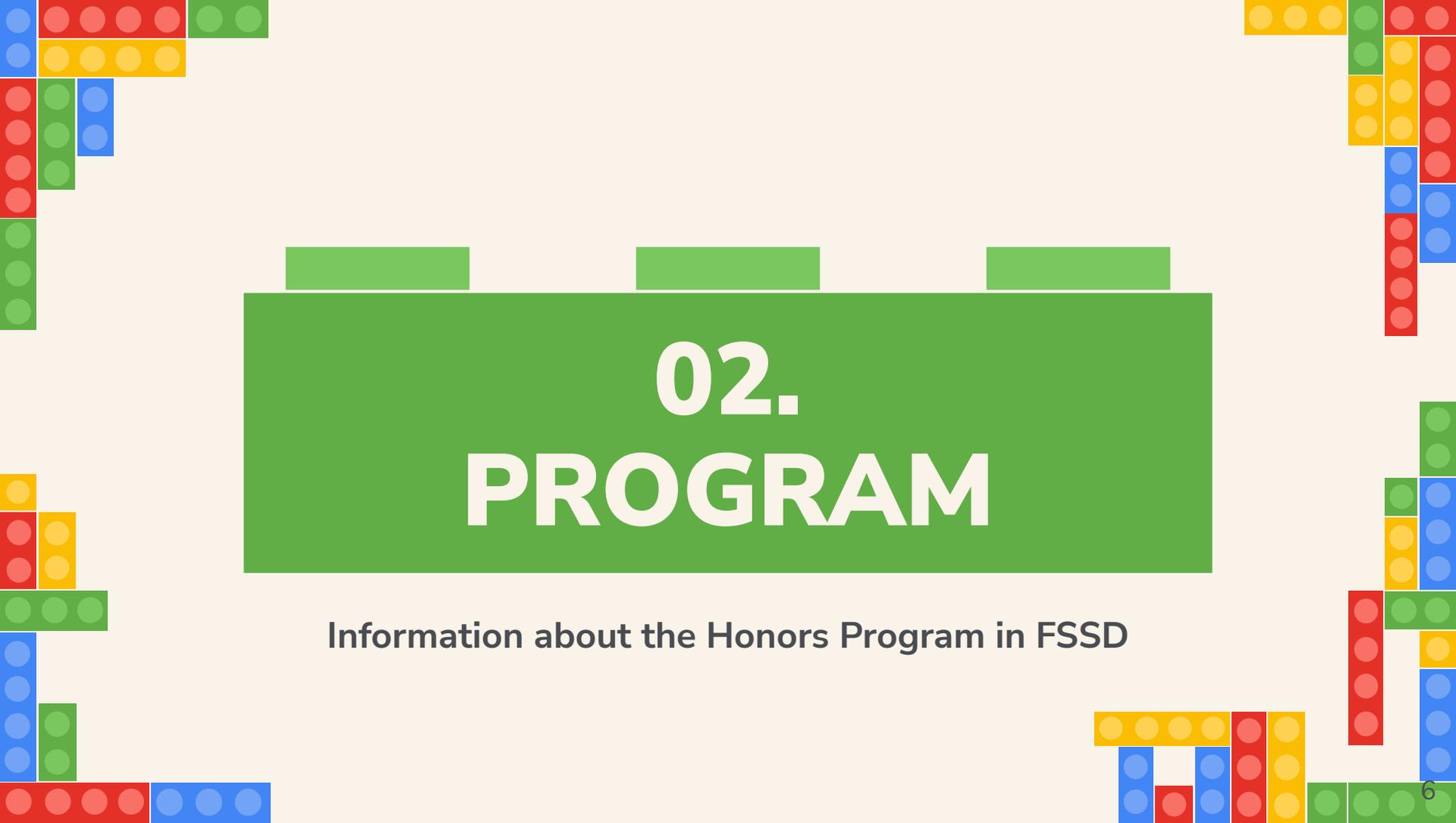


## **FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Dr. Pax Wiemers (chair)  
Dr. Mary Decker  
Dr. Cheryl Robey  
Mrs. Summer Carlton

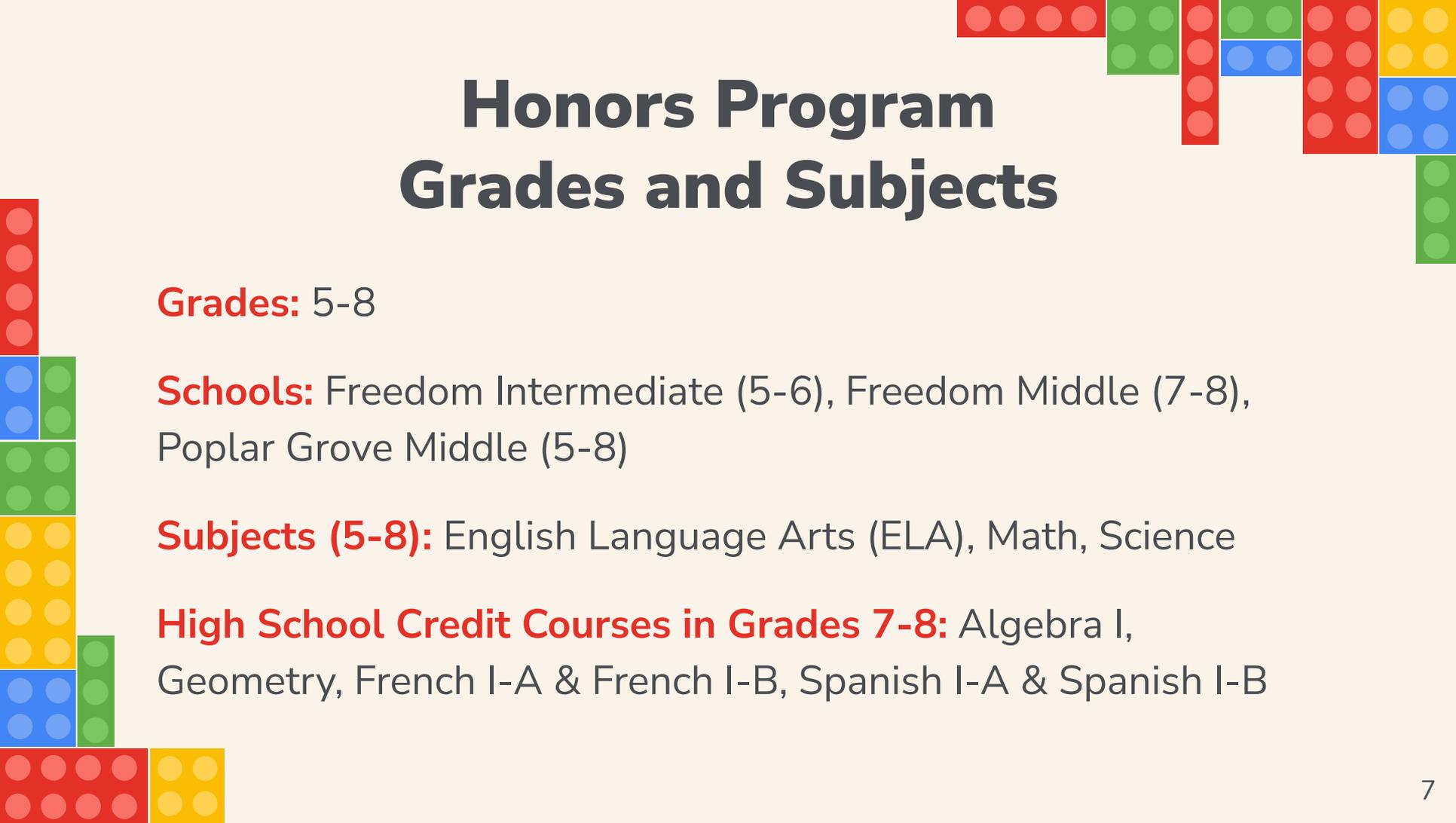
# School Contact Information for the Honors Program

	CONTACT	EMAIL	PHONE
FIS	Mrs. Tracie Gallon	<a href="mailto:gallontra@fssd.org">gallontra@fssd.org</a>	615-790-4718
FMS	Dr. Amanda Muniz	<a href="mailto:munizama@fssd.org">munizama@fssd.org</a>	615-794-0987
PGMS	Dr. JP Orman	<a href="mailto:ormanjoh@fssd.org">ormanjoh@fssd.org</a>	615-790-4721



# 02. PROGRAM

Information about the Honors Program in FSSD



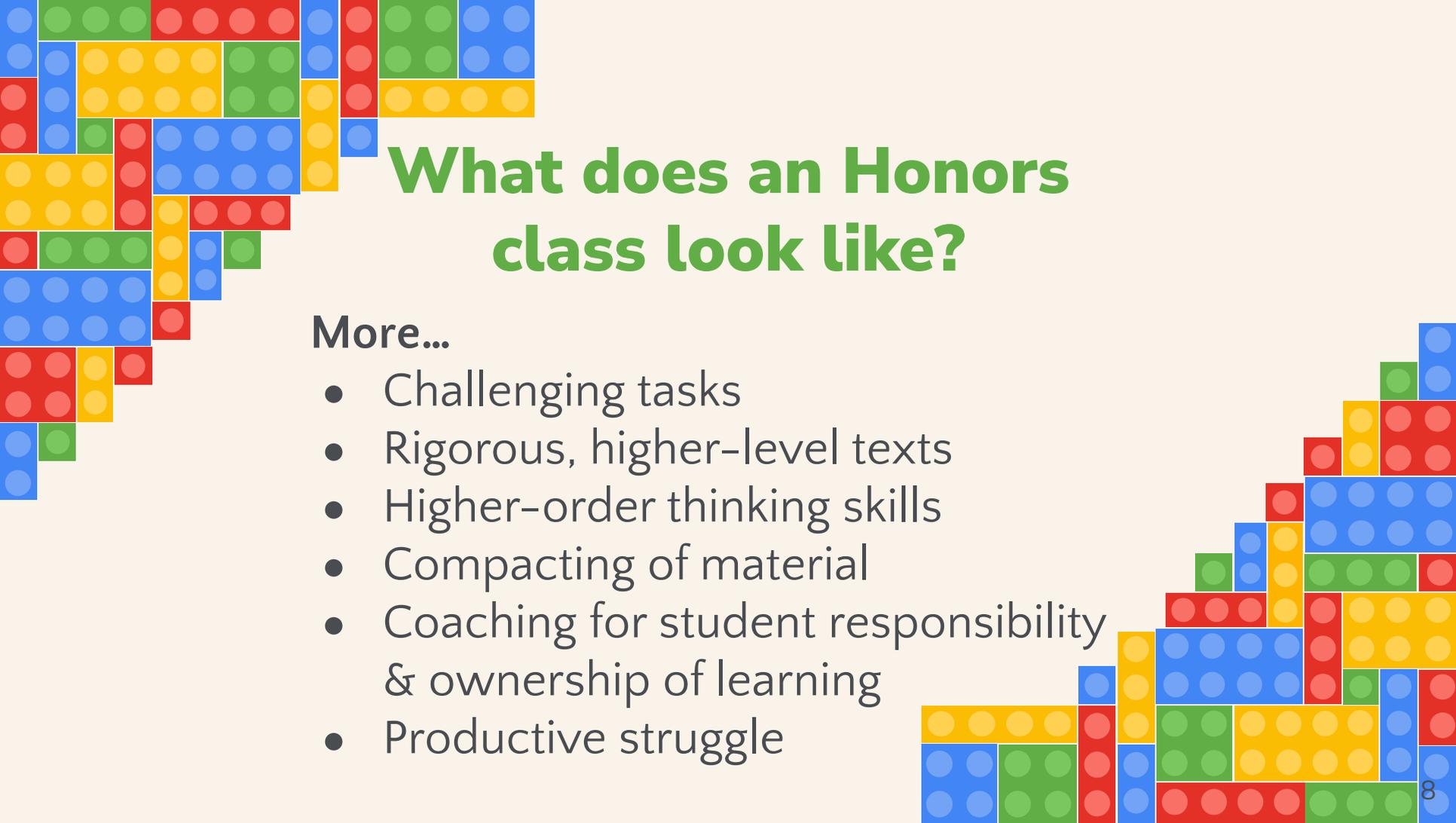
# Honors Program Grades and Subjects

**Grades:** 5-8

**Schools:** Freedom Intermediate (5-6), Freedom Middle (7-8),  
Poplar Grove Middle (5-8)

**Subjects (5-8):** English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science

**High School Credit Courses in Grades 7-8:** Algebra I,  
Geometry, French I-A & French I-B, Spanish I-A & Spanish I-B



# What does an Honors class look like?

## More...

- Challenging tasks
- Rigorous, higher-level texts
- Higher-order thinking skills
- Compacting of material
- Coaching for student responsibility & ownership of learning
- Productive struggle



# Characteristics of students who are typically successful in an Honors class

- 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

# Expectations for Honors Participation

1

## FORMS

Parents must complete a Parent Commitment Form that explains the course expectations.

2

## PARTICIPATION

It's important that students actively participate in class, complete assignments, & maintain their grades.

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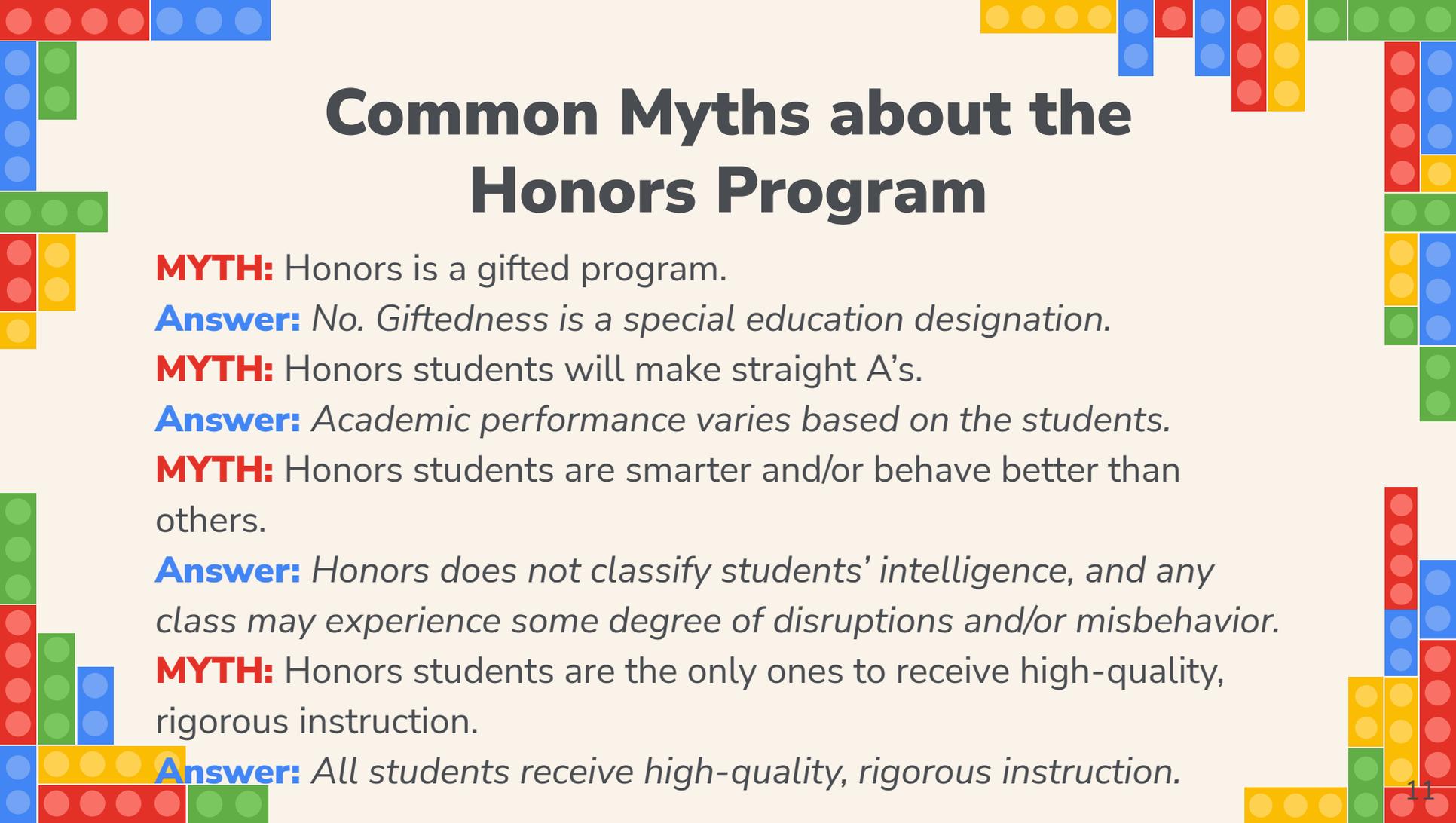
## GRADES

Students must maintain a passing grade (70 & above) at the end of each quarter.

4

## DISMISSAL

Students who do not maintain a passing grade at the end of a quarter will be removed from the Honors course and rescheduled in another course.



# Common Myths about the Honors Program

**MYTH:** Honors is a gifted program.

**Answer:** *No. Giftedness is a special education designation.*

**MYTH:** Honors students will make straight A's.

**Answer:** *Academic performance varies based on the students.*

**MYTH:** Honors students are smarter and/or behave better than others.

**Answer:** *Honors does not classify students' intelligence, and any class may experience some degree of disruptions and/or misbehavior.*

**MYTH:** Honors students are the only ones to receive high-quality, rigorous instruction.

**Answer:** *All students receive high-quality, rigorous instruction.*

# Common Misconceptions about the Honors Program

**MISCONCEPTION:** A qualifying student must take an Honors class.

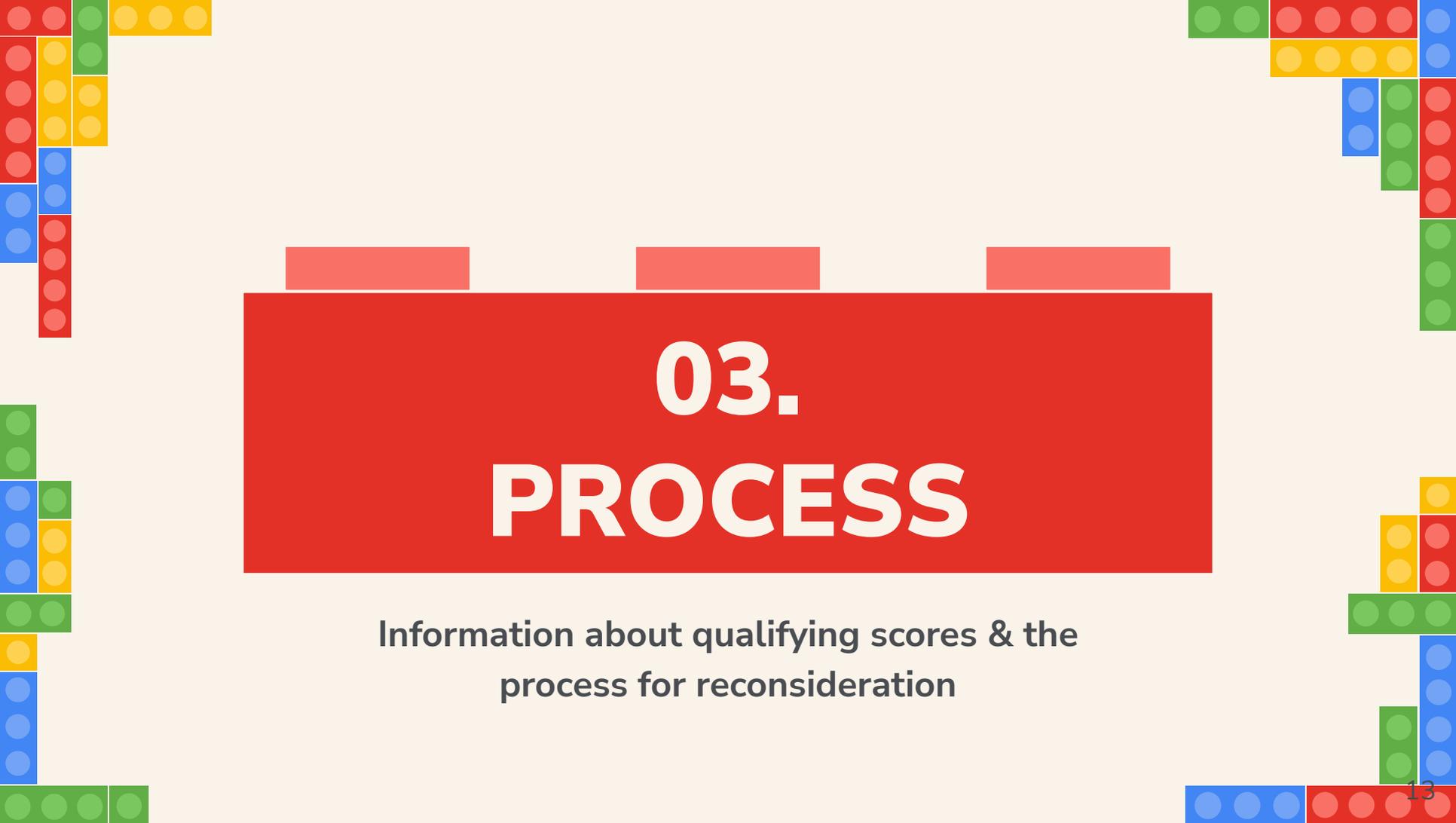
**Answer:** *Parents may choose to opt out of Honors classes.*

**MISCONCEPTION:** Taking Honors classes will guarantee a student's placement in Advanced Placement or Honors classes in high school.

**Answer:** *No, there are different entry requirements into those classes. Even students not in Honors in grades 5-8 can qualify for those classes.*

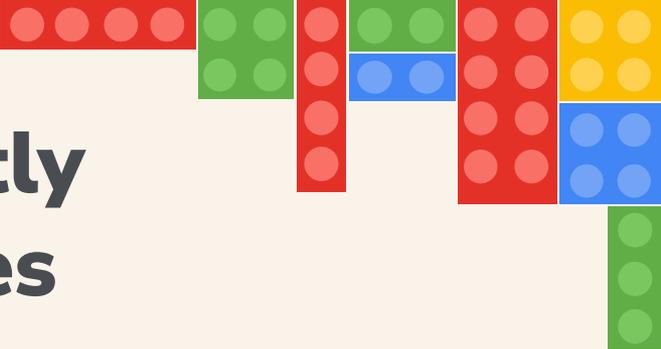
**MISCONCEPTION:** Students served by an ALS (Accelerated Learning Specialist) teacher in elementary school automatically qualify for Honors.

**Answer:** *Honors is separate from ALS services. All students qualify for Honors classes in the same manner.*

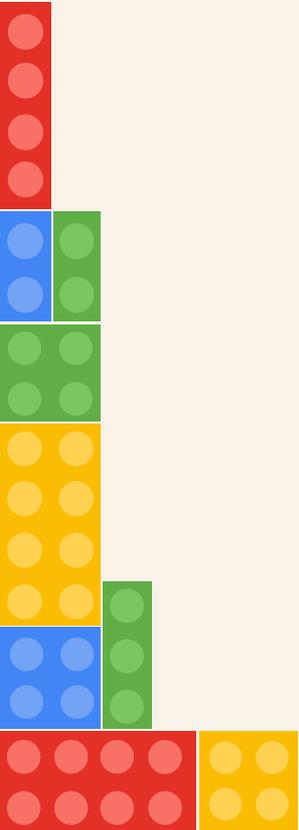


# 03. PROCESS

Information about qualifying scores & the  
process for reconsideration



# Students currently in Honors classes



\*If you have a current 5th grade student in Honors classes and they maintain their grades for the rest of this school year, they will automatically roll over and be placed in the same Honors classes next year. Any program changes will not affect their status, and they will not need to re-qualify.

# Qualifying Scores for the Honors Program for 2022-23



## ELA/MATH

Spring 2021 TCAP =  
90th percentile & up on  
ELA and Math subparts

**OR**

STAR Reading/iReady Math =  
85th percentile & up  
(Winter 2021-22  
benchmark scores)



## SCIENCE

Spring 2021 TCAP =  
90th percentile & up on  
Science subpart

**OR**

STAR Reading\* =  
85th percentile & up  
(Winter 2021-22  
benchmark scores)

*\*There is no  
benchmark  
test for  
Science.*

# Timeline for the Honors Program



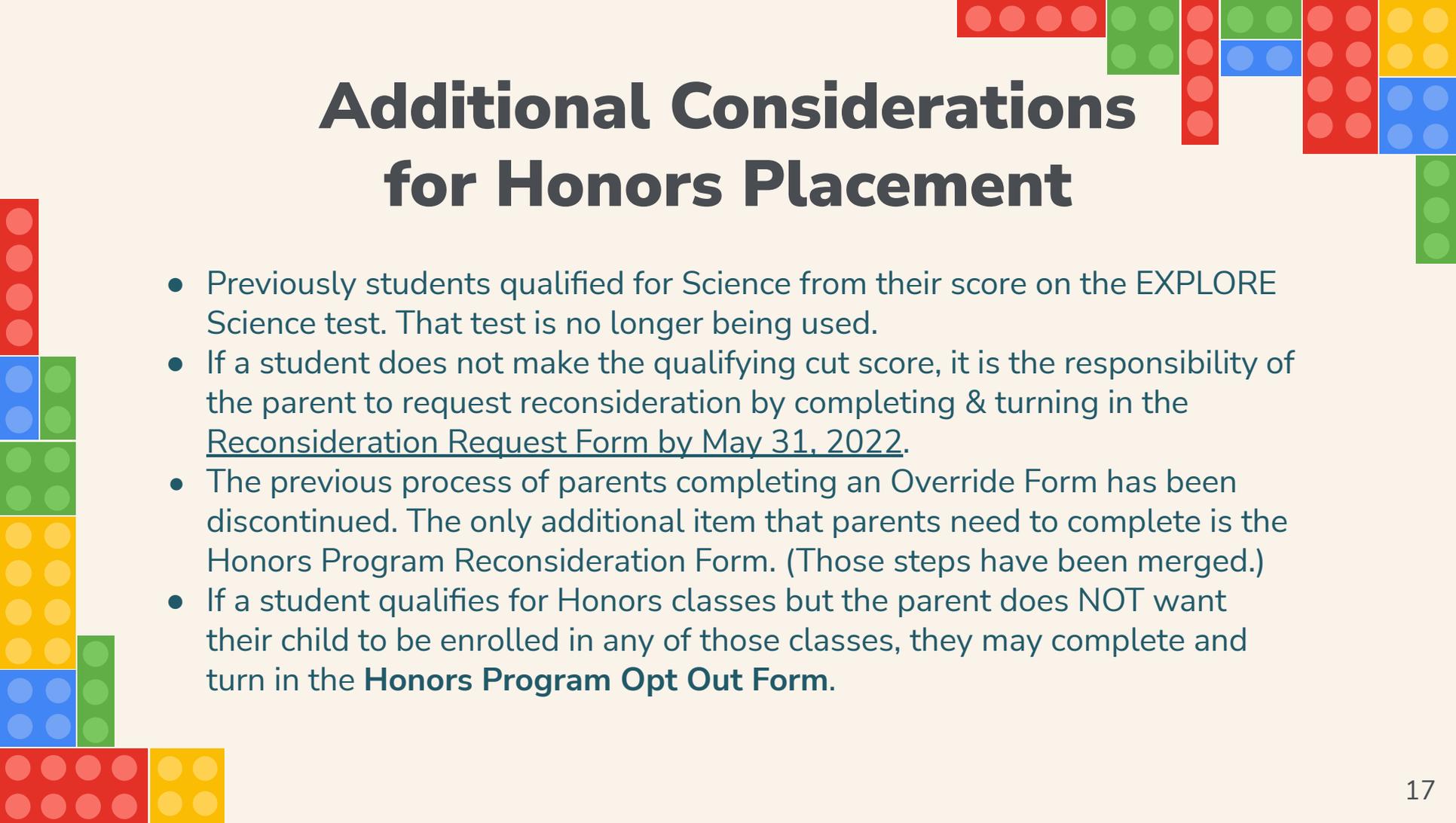
Parents will be notified by mail by the end of March 2022 about qualifying scores for Honors classes.



School-level meetings for the Honors program will occur in April. (Blackboard messages will be sent to families with these dates.)



Parents who wish to complete a Honors Program Reconsideration Form must do so by **May 31, 2022**. These should be sent to a child's upcoming school. (This form will be included in the March mailout.)



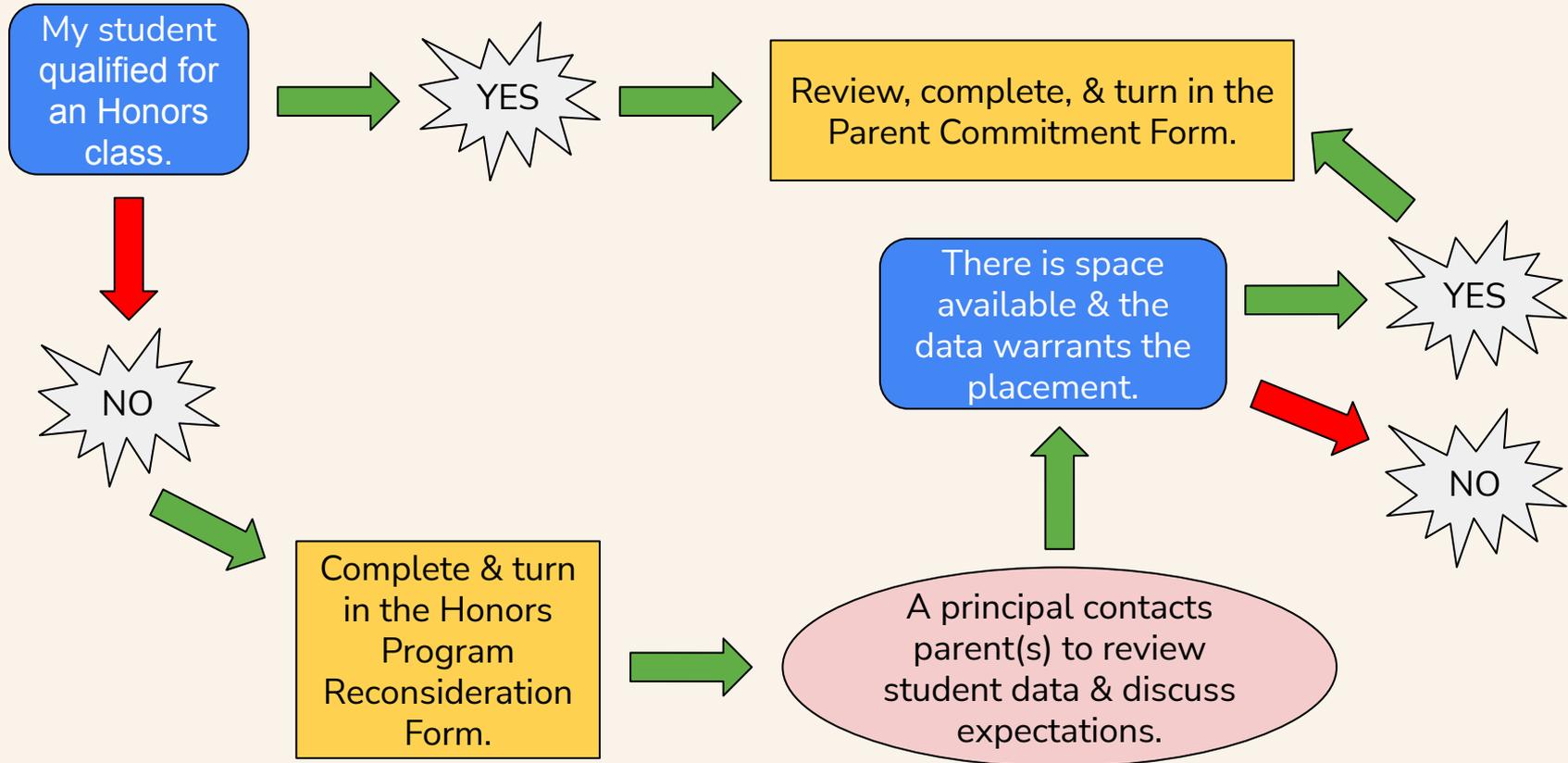
# Additional Considerations for Honors Placement

- Previously students qualified for Science from their score on the EXPLORE Science test. That test is no longer being used.
- If a student does not make the qualifying cut score, it is the responsibility of the parent to request reconsideration by completing & turning in the Reconsideration Request Form by May 31, 2022.
- The previous process of parents completing an Override Form has been discontinued. The only additional item that parents need to complete is the Honors Program Reconsideration Form. (Those steps have been merged.)
- If a student qualifies for Honors classes but the parent does NOT want their child to be enrolled in any of those classes, they may complete and turn in the **Honors Program Opt Out Form**.

# Final Considerations for Honors Placement

- During the reconsideration process, the school administrator will collect data from the spring STAR Reading and/or i-Ready Math assessments, as well as previous teachers.
- An administrator will contact the parent(s) in the summer about the Reconsideration request. The parent and administrator will examine multiple sources of data to ensure the parent makes the most appropriate decision for his or her child.
- If the parent and administrator have considered the student's data **and** space is available, the student will have the opportunity to enroll in Honors classes. *(A student may not be considered if their benchmark scores are not high enough to reasonably fulfill the rigorous expectations of Honors coursework.)*

# Diagram of the Process



# Phases of the Process

1

Qualifying Scores

Notice by  
end of March

2

Reconsideration Requests

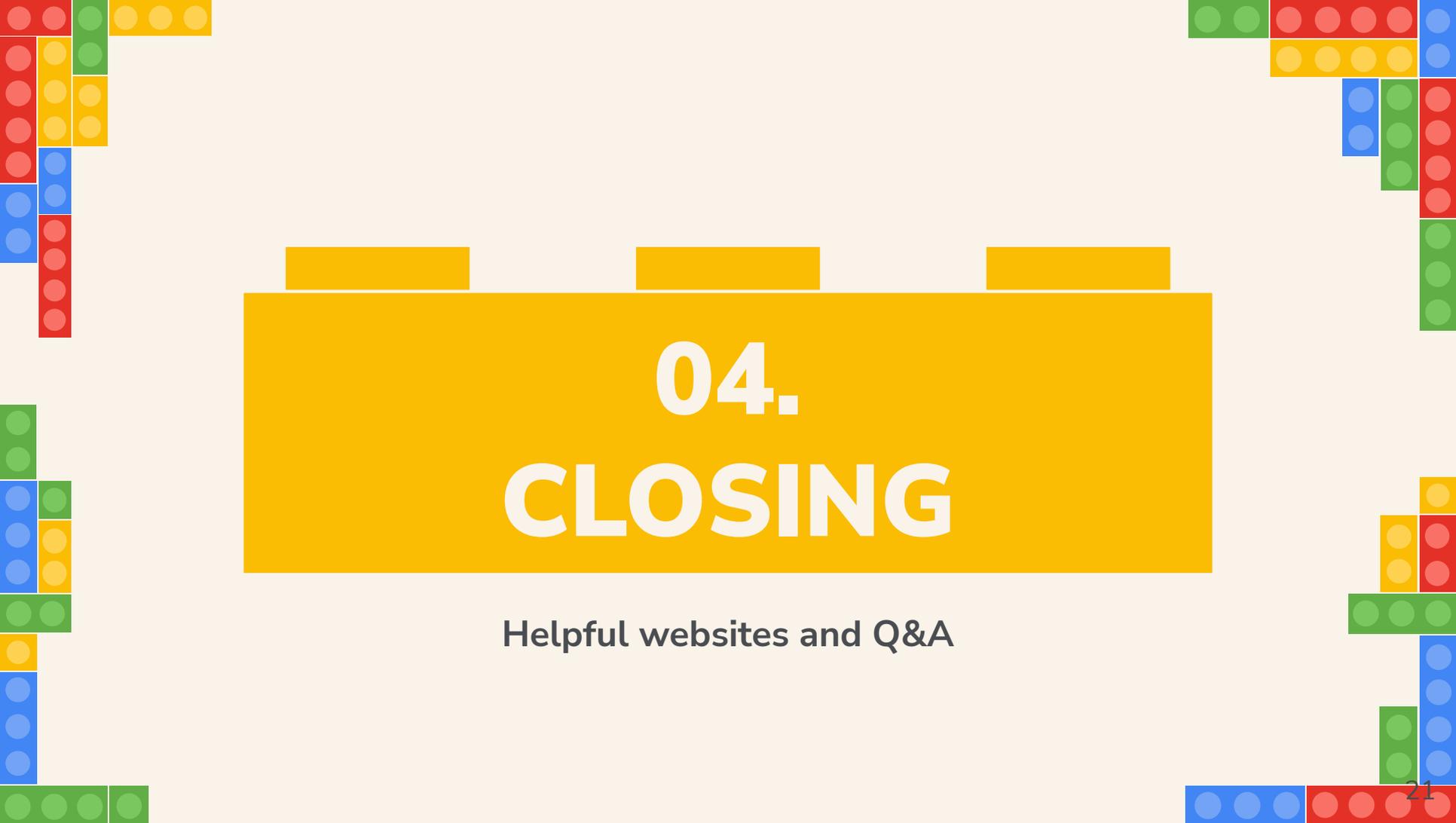
Form due by  
end of May

3

Review/Notification

Discussion with principal  
& notice of acceptance  
before school starts.

\*Parents must complete & turn in a new Parent Commitment Form at the beginning of the school year, regardless of the phase by which students enter an Honors class.



# 04. CLOSING

Helpful websites and Q&A

# Helpful Websites



<https://fssd.org/instruction/>

(click on the Honors Program tab)



<https://freedomintermediate.fssd.org/>

<https://poplargrovemiddle.fssd.org/>

The background of the slide is a light gray surface scattered with various colorful LEGO bricks and a blue LEGO car. The bricks are in red, green, blue, yellow, and orange. The car is blue with yellow wheels. The text is centered on the slide.

# Q&A Time

*What general questions do you still have?  
(Questions related to specific students or  
situations should be sent to school  
administrators. Please post your questions  
in the Chat feature.)*

# THANKS!

If you have any questions, please reach out to the school administrators, or you may contact Dr. Pax Wiemers at the FSSD Central Office: 615-794-6624 or [wiemerspax@fssd.org](mailto:wiemerspax@fssd.org).

Thanks to  
the teachers  
& parent  
liaisons.



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