



# FSSD Honors Program

Franklin Special School District  
*January 31, 2022*

*An introduction for  
parents of rising  
7th-8th graders*



# 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)



## FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

## POPLAR GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL



Dr. Chris Treadway (Principal)  
Dr. JP Orman (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
<b>FIS</b>	Mrs. Tracie Gallon	<a href="mailto:gallontra@fssd.org">gallontra@fssd.org</a>	615-790-4718
<b>FMS</b>	Dr. Amanda Muniz	<a href="mailto:munizama@fssd.org">munizama@fssd.org</a>	615-794-0987
<b>PGMS</b>	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

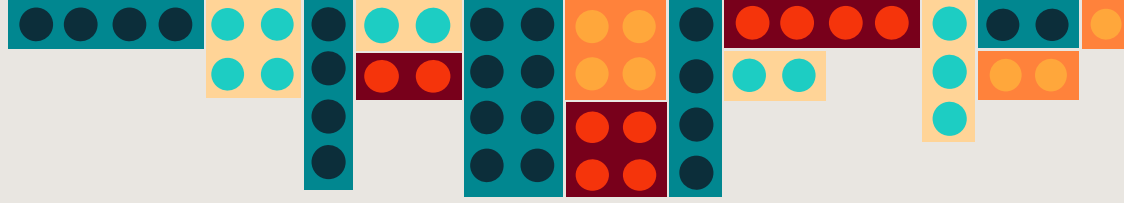


**Grades:** 5-8

**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



# High School Credit Courses


- **Algebra I:**
  - No Reconsiderations accepted in 7th grade (can in 8th).
  - Algebra I in 7th is a prerequisite for Geometry in 8th.
  - Still must take 4 years of high school math courses!!!
- **World Language (2-year commitment):**
  - Spanish I-A or French I-A (must take in 7th grade)
  - Spanish I-B or French I-B (must take in 8th grade)
- **Computer Science:**
  - One-year course (8th grade Related Arts - FMS)

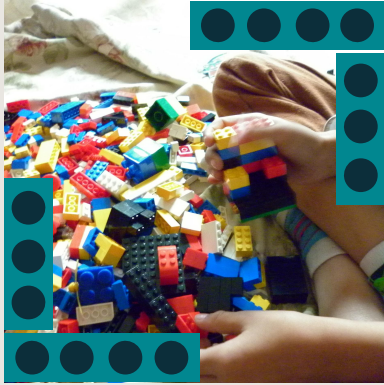


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# What does an Honors class look like?

More...

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

3

## 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.*

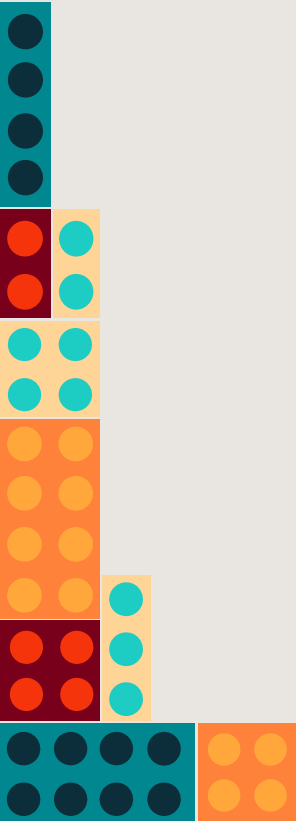


# 03. PROCESS

**Information about qualifying scores & the  
process for reconsideration**



# Students Currently in Honors classes



\*If you have a current 6th or 7th 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; however, there are entrance tests for taking World Language and Algebra I in 7th grade though.

# 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

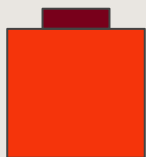
**OR**

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

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



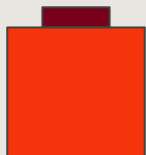
# Tests for High School Credit Courses



Algebra I



IAAT  
(Iowa Algebra  
Aptitude Test)



World Language  
(French/Spanish)



MLAT-E  
(Modern Language  
Aptitude Test-Elementary)

\*These tests will be administered at schools in February. Letters will be coming home soon, and parents may opt out if they choose. Administrators will schedule a time for absent students to make up the test upon their return. **Please note that cut scores for these tests are determined annually based on the tested cohort.**



# Timeline for the Honors Program



Parents will be notified by mail by the end of March 2022 about qualifying scores for Honors classes & for high school credit courses.




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.)
  - Reconsiderations are not permitted for 7th grade Algebra I.
  - 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

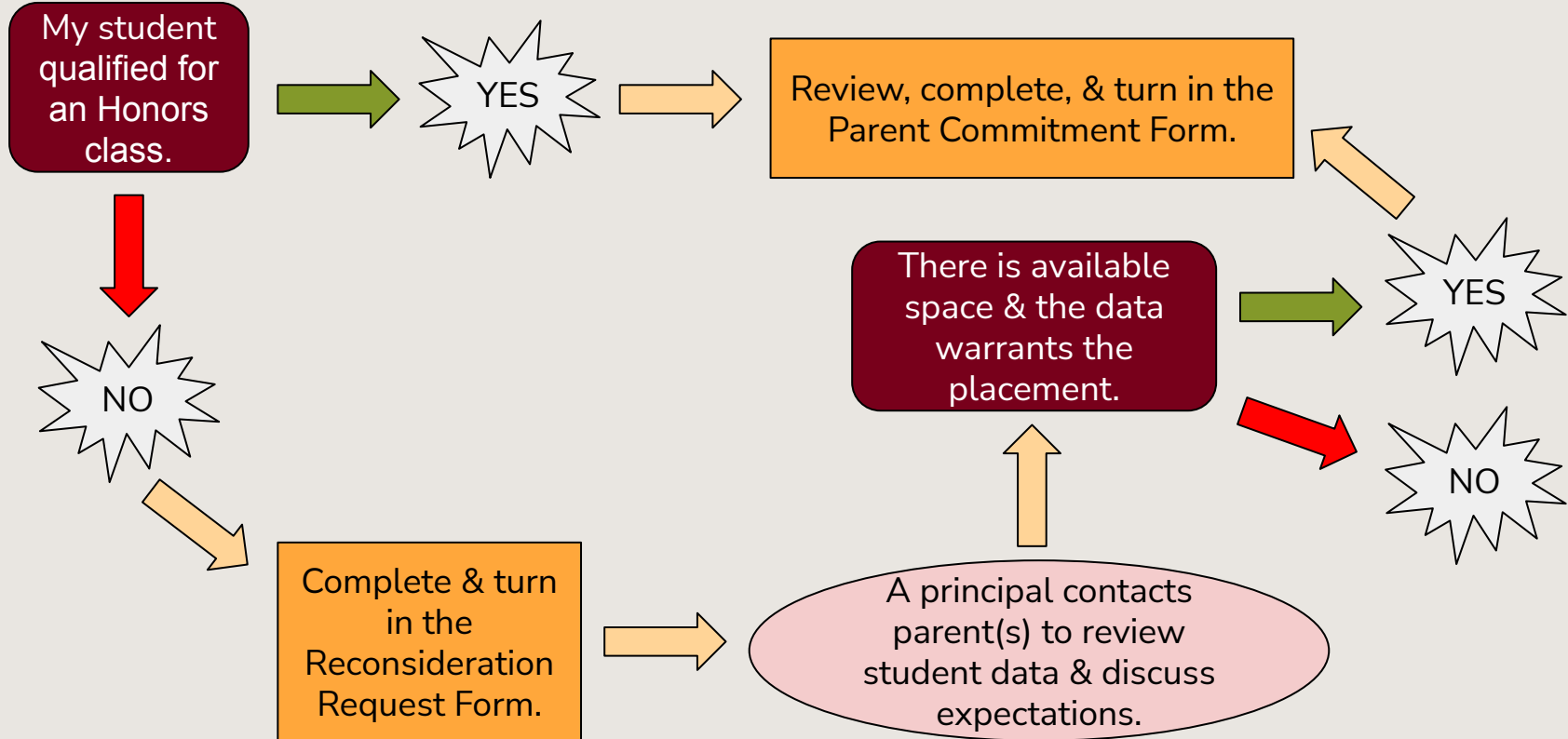
- For high school credit classes (Algebra I, Geometry, French, Spanish), the grading scale is aligned with WCS. Per state policy, withdrawal decisions for these classes must be made by the end of the 1st quarter. *(World Language classes will impact students' schedules for Related Arts at FMS and PGMS.)*
- An administrator will contact the parent(s) in the summer about the Reconsideration request. The parent and administrator will examine multiple sources of data, including Spring benchmark results, to ensure they make the most appropriate decision for his/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.)*

# WCS High School Math Sequence

## Recommended Mathematics Sequence

8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math 	Algebra I Honors Algebra I	Geometry Honors Geometry	Algebra II Honors Algebra II	Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus AP Statistics Statistics Applied Math Bridge Math
Algebra I Honors 	Geometry Honors Geometry	Algebra II Honors Algebra II	Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus AP Statistics Statistics	AP Calculus BC AP Calculus AB Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus AP Statistics Statistics
Geometry Honors  	Algebra II Honors Algebra II	Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus AP Statistics Statistics	AP Calculus BC AP Calculus AB Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus AP Statistics Statistics	AP Calculus BC AP Calculus AB Calculus Honors AP Statistics Statistics

# 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



**FSSD**

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

(click on the Honors Program tab)



**SCHOOLS**

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

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



**IAAT**

<https://www.edinaschools.org/cms/lib07/MN01909547/Centricity/Domain/115/iaat.pdf>



**MLAT-E**

<http://lltf.net/aptnitude-tests/language-aptitude-tests/mlat-elementary/mlat-e-sample-items/>



# 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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