

January  
2023

# FSSD Honors Program

*A presentation for parents of students  
in rising 7th & rising 8th grade:*

***Updates for the  
2023-24 school year***



*Excellence in Teaching  
and Learning for All*

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# 01. INTRODUCTION

Mission & Committee

# 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)  
Christine McNutt\*

## FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Charles Farmer (Principal)  
Dr. Amanda Muniz (AP)  
Lisa Beard\*

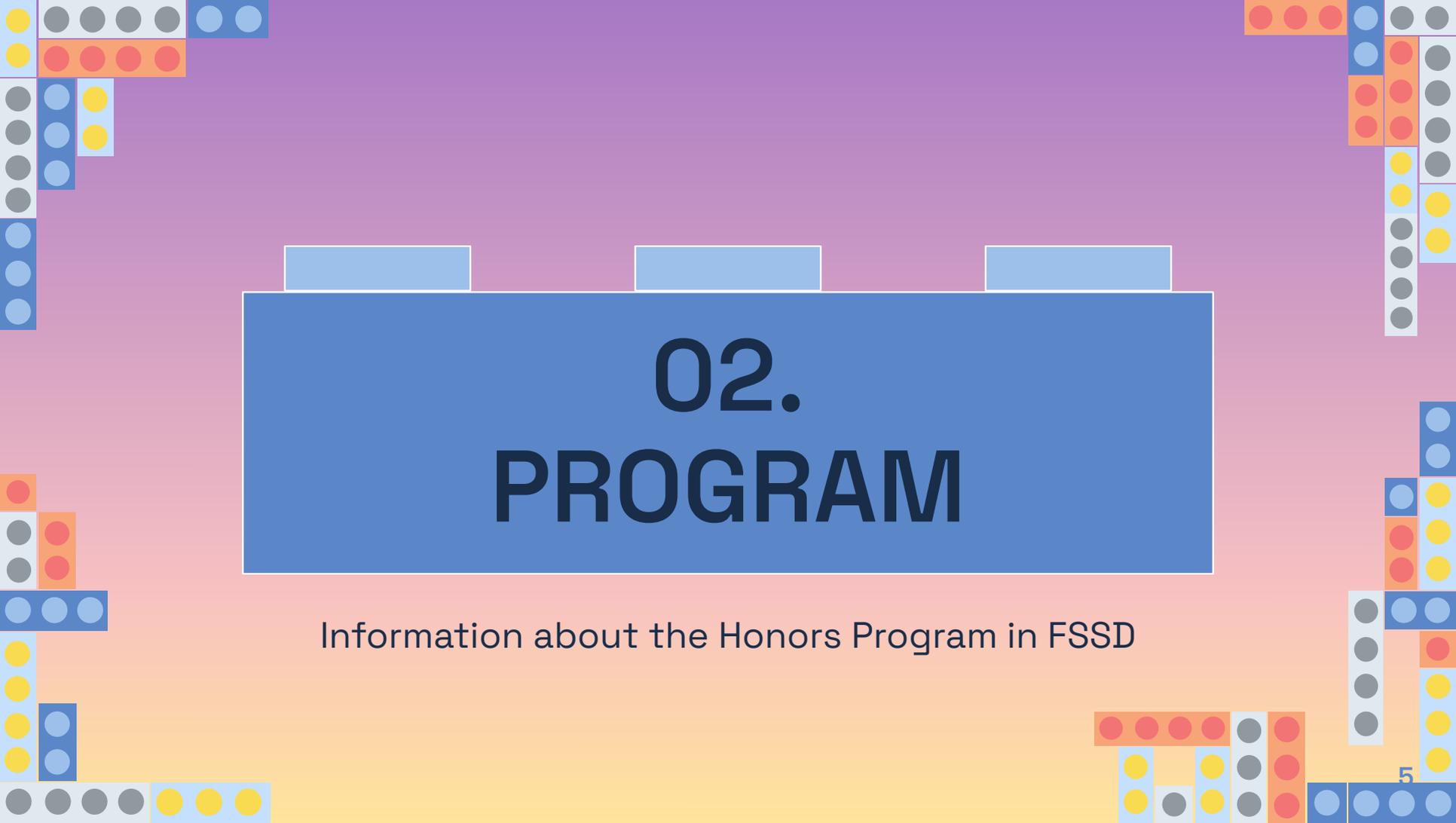
## POPLAR GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Chris Treadway (Principal)  
Dr. JP Orman (AP)  
Jeanie Ayers\*

## FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

*\*Teacher newly added to Honors  
Committee, as of January 2023.*



# 02. PROGRAM

Information about the Honors Program in FSSD

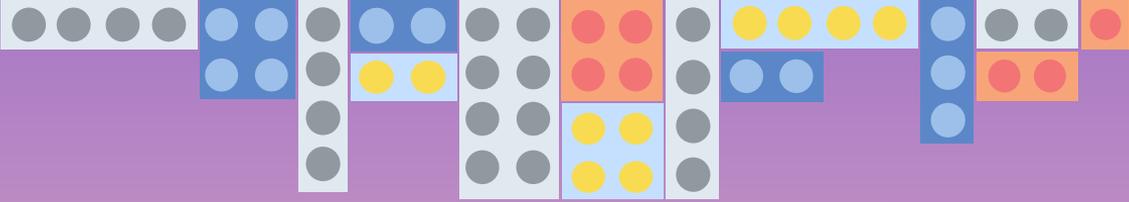
# Honors Program Grades and Subjects

**Grades:** 5-8

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

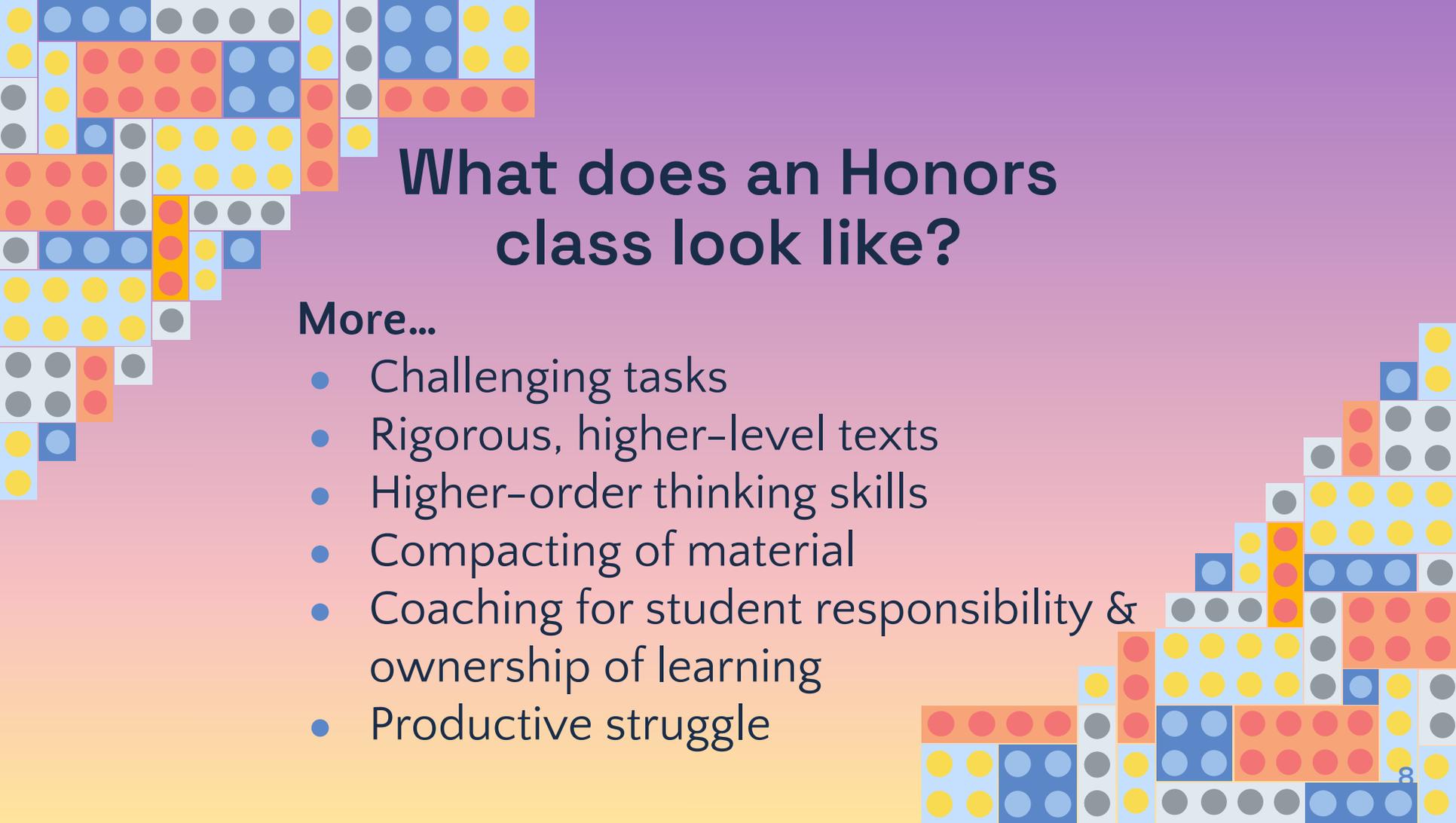
**Subjects (5-8):** English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science

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



# High School Credit Courses

- **Algebra I/Geometry:**
  - No Reconsiderations accepted in 7th grade .
  - Algebra I in 7th is a prerequisite for Geometry in 8th.
  - Reconsiderations accepted for Algebra I 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 (FMS & PGMS) - *no entrance requirements*



# 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 Program Participation

1

## FORMS

Parents must complete an annual Parent Commitment Form that explains program 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.

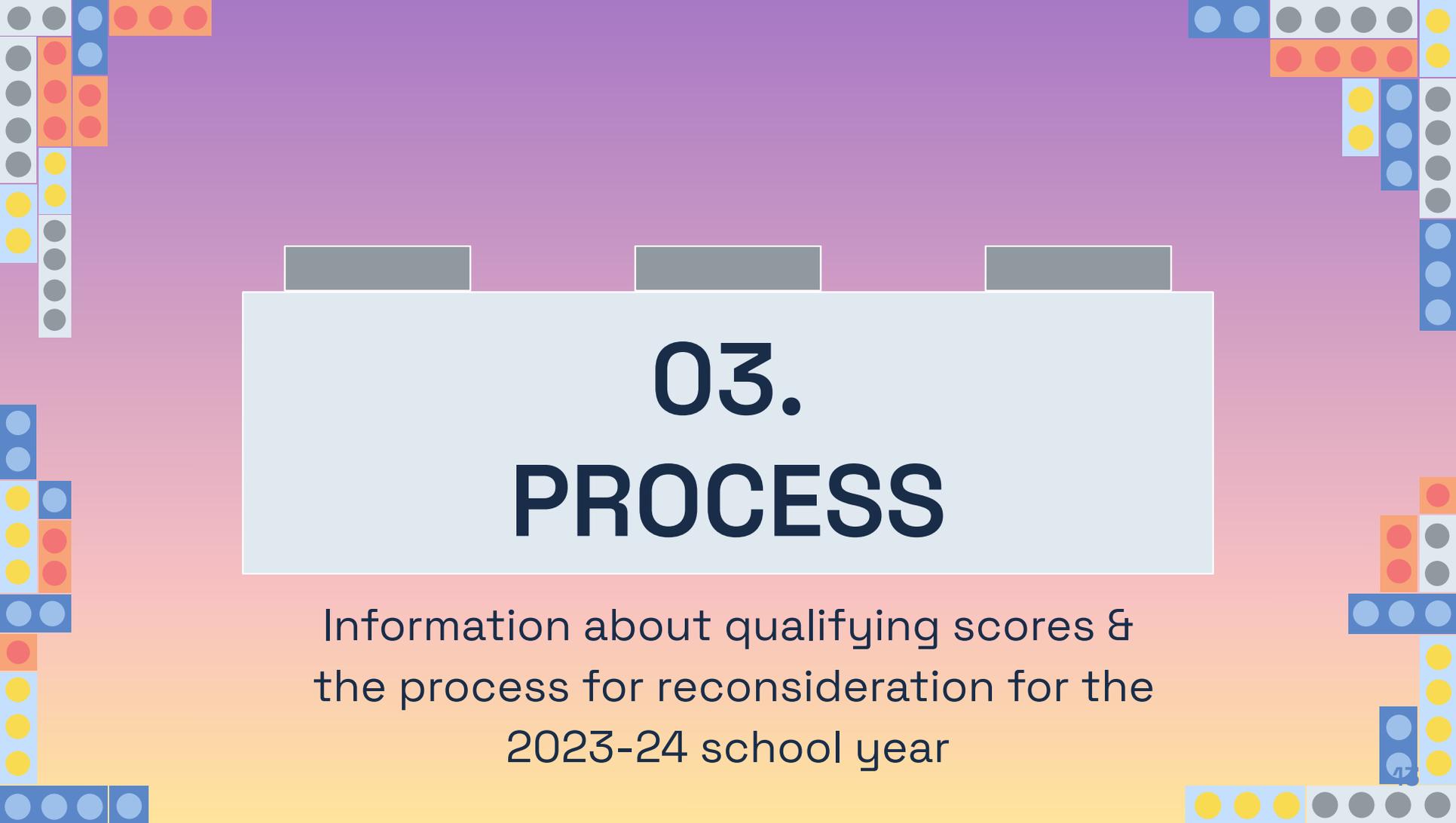
**Answer:** *Parents may choose to opt out of Honors classes.*

**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 the Accelerated Learning teacher in elementary school automatically qualify for Honors.

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

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# 03. PROCESS

Information about qualifying scores &  
the process for reconsideration for the  
2023-24 school year

# 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 enrolling in World Language and Algebra I in 7th/8th grades though.

# Updated Policies/Procedures for the 2023-24 school year



The qualifying cut score for both TCAP & benchmark tests will be at the 90th percentile, as it was pre-pandemic. This applies to ELA, Math, & Science.



Students in 7th grade Honors Math will not automatically roll into 8th grade Algebra I (see below). Pre-Algebra is offered in 8th grade for any student.



There will be an entrance test and qualifying cut score for 8th grade Algebra I, as there has been for 7th Algebra I, due to WCS including grades in these classes in students' high school GPA.

# Qualifying Scores for the Honors Program for 2023-24



## ELA/MATH

Spring 2022 TCAP =  
**90th** percentile & up on  
ELA and Math subparts

*OR*

STAR Reading/iReady Math =  
**90th** percentile & up  
(Winter 2022-23  
benchmark scores)

*\*There is only Honors Math in 7th grade.*



## SCIENCE

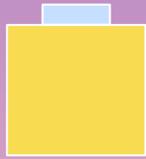
Spring 2022 TCAP =  
**90th** percentile & up on  
Science subpart

*OR*

STAR Reading\* =  
**90th** percentile & up  
(Winter 2022-23  
benchmark scores)

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

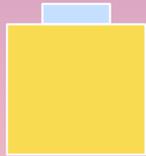
# Tests for High School Credit Courses



**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 2023 about qualifying scores for Honors classes.



School-level meetings for the Honors program will occur in late March to early May. (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, 2023**. A link & QR code for this digital form will be sent with the qualifying letters in late March.

# Considerations for Honors Placement

- If your student wasn't enrolled in FSSD during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 school years, we may be missing some qualifying scores, but we can use available information that we do have. Parents can still complete the Reconsideration Request Form as well.
- If a student does not make the qualifying cut score, it is the responsibility of the parent to request reconsideration by completing the digital [Reconsideration Request Form by May 31, 2023](#).
- The Reconsideration Request Form is now a digital form. A link and QR code will be shared with qualifying letters & will also be posted online in late March 2023. We will also include it in a Blackboard Connect message/email.
- 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**. This form will also be in digital form and will be shared in late March.

# Additional 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.*)

# Final Considerations for Honors Placement

- The earned letter grade from high school credit classes will count toward students' high school GPA, per WCS Board Policy 4.600.
- FSSD high school credit classes will follow the WCS Grading Scale, which utilizes the Uniform Grading Scale.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade Range</u>
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	0 - 59

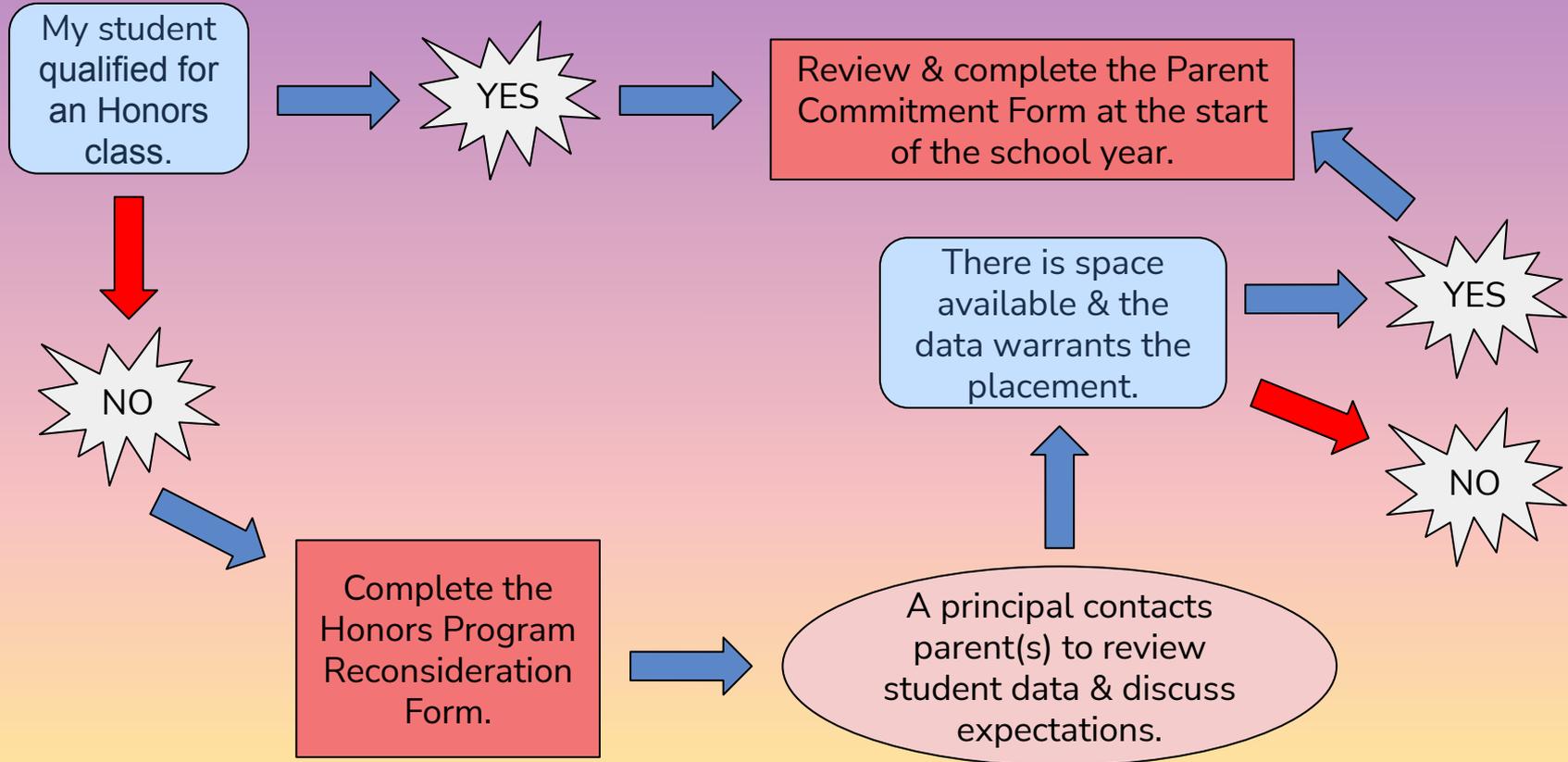
- Per State Board policy, students cannot withdraw from an EOC (end of course) class (Algebra I, Geometry) after 25% of the class has concluded (i.e., they must withdraw by the end of the first quarter).

# 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  <i>Pre-Algebra</i>	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  <i>8th Algebra I</i>	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  <i>7th Algebra I</i>	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

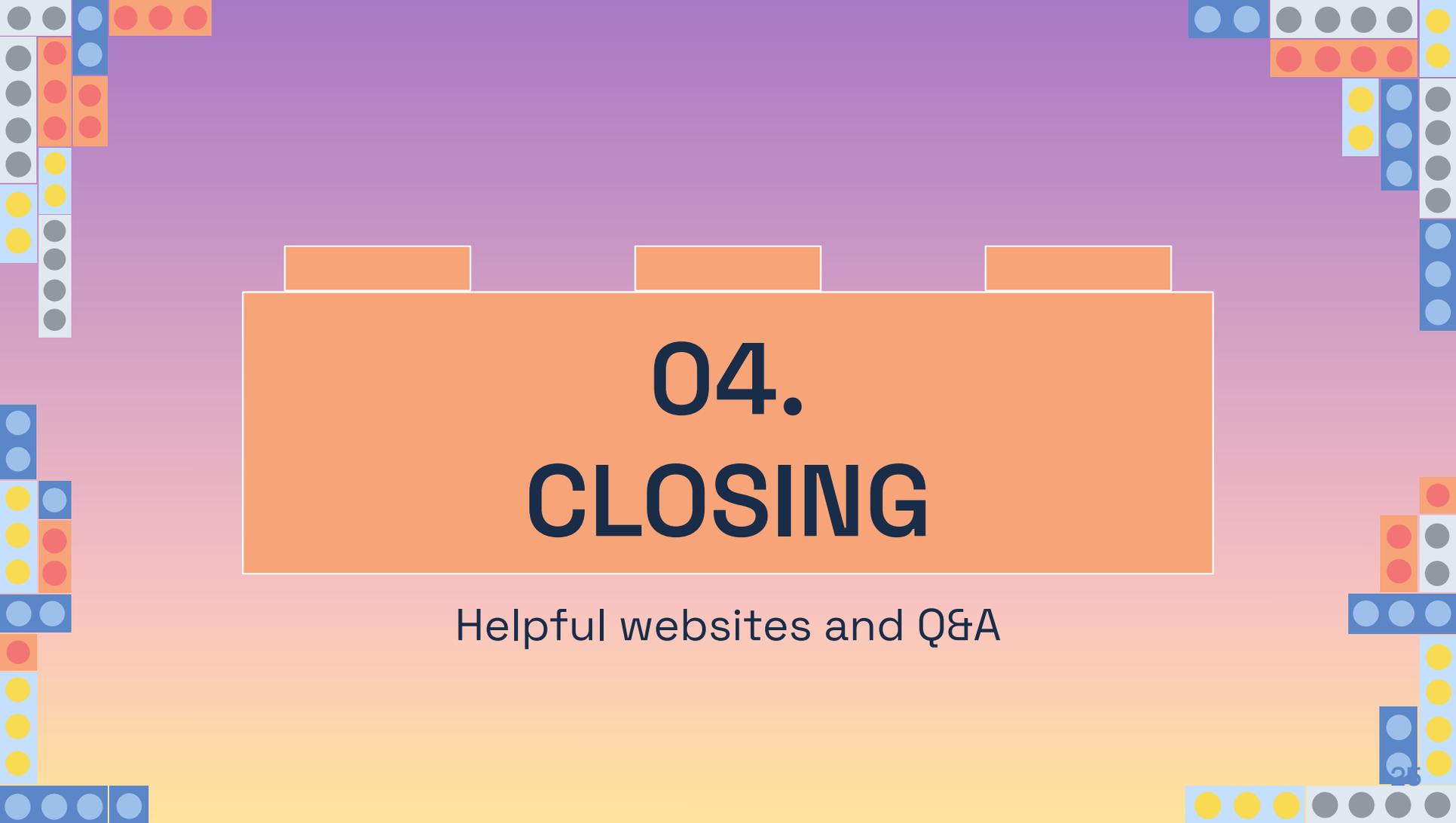
Form due by  
end of May

3

Review/Notification

Discussion with principal  
& notice of acceptance  
before school starts.

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

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# 04. CLOSING

Helpful websites and Q&A

# Helpful Websites



<https://www.fssd.org/students-families/curriculum-and-instruction>

(click on the Honors Program tab)



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

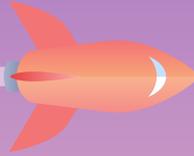


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvSiJrOHAA0>

*Not affiliated with these sites*



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



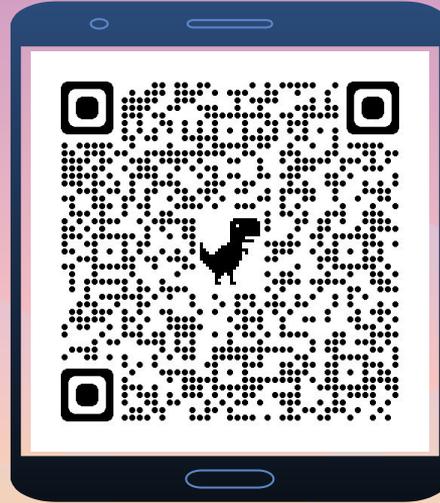
# Questions/Feedback

Please take 1 minute to complete the Google Form to let us know that you've watched this presentation. You can ask questions or send comments there also. The next slide has a link and a QR code for the Form.

# Google Form

Link: [CLICK HERE](#)

QR Code:



# 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

# THANKS!

If you have any questions, please reach out to the school administrators at next year's school, or you may contact Dr. Pax Wiemers at the FSSD

Central Office: 615-794-6624 or

[wiemerspax@fssd.org](mailto:wiemerspax@fssd.org).

Thank you  
for watching  
this  
presentation.



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