

Honors Profile 2010-2011

Grades 7 and 8

Recommendation Requirements

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Your child has been selected to participate in honors English for the 2008-2009 school year. Below you will see the profile the department uses to distinguish an honors level student. This is important for students now in Honors English and those who wish to be placed in Honors English next year.

Initial recommendations are made in the now based on a child's performance to date, and I have an opportunity to review my recommendation before school ends in June and change it based on your child's most recent accomplishments in class. Furthermore, if your child does not participate in the Honors program in 8th grade, it does not exclude him or her from recommendation or participation in 9th grade Honors courses or beyond.

Profile of an Honors Student: Being an honors student means more than having a strong work ethic. The honors program is designed for students who not only have a strong academic aptitude, but students who are driven to learn, write, read and speak. It is not only more difficult work, but a class that moves at a quicker pace and requires inherent student motivation. Honors students are eager to participate, provide high quality work consistently and are more likely to need holding back than prodding forward by the instructor.

Work Habits:

- *Work is always completed on time
- *Work is presented neatly
- *Student is quickly able to focus on and break down tasks into manageable chunks and work in an organized, deliberate fashion
- *Student has an ability to stay organized, both with materials and time management.
- *When student is absent, he or she makes up work in a timely manner
- *Student asks teacher for anticipated assignments prior to planned absences
- *Student takes initiative to seek assistance from instructor when faltering

Academic Work:

- *Student is able to grasp ideas and implement action on new tasks quickly
- *Work is of a consistent high quality, indicating that the student has spent time and effort completing the assignment.
- *Work is free of common errors, such as run-ons, unintentional fragments, punctuation and spelling errors
- *Work shows originality and ability to think "out of the box", to "read between the lines" and play with ideas.
- *Written work is characterized by variety in sentence structure and advanced vocabulary.
- *Work consistently improves (both is the process stages and in the final product) and student shows his or her best effort.

Behavior, Attitude and Honors Mind Set:

- *Student initiates his or her own participation in class discussions
- *In groups, the student is on task
- *The student is able to work through minor distractions and will not initiate distractions.
 - *An honors student recognizes the additional responsibility he or she bears and carries it well.

Character:

*An honors student is an honorable person, kind to others, and willing to lead and be a role model.

Grades:

*A current honors student must maintain an A- average (90%) for the year and have strong effort and conduct grades to remain in the program as well as be recommended for the following year's Honors program. Students who wish to be considered for Honors must maintain at least an A- average for the school year and have strong participation grades in class discussions to be considered, as well as having strong effort and conduct grades.

If you would like to discuss this with me, please call me at _____881-0430__ or E-mail me at _____desidian@shenet.org_____ I would like to help you and your child.

Sincerely,

Diane De Silva

Academic Administrator for Kindergarten – Grade 8 ELA & Kindergarten-Grade 5 Social Studies

Student: By signing below you understand that it is your responsibility to be here, be safe, be kind, be responsible and set goals in this class in order to be successful. You must participate fully and ask for help when needed.

Student Signature: _____

Parent: By signing below you understand that you child's work, behavior and character must maintain the standard set above for participation in the honors program. You further understand that continued participation in this program is not guaranteed into 8th grade but will be reevaluated on a yearly basis.

Parent Signature: _____

Please return this to your English teacher where a copy will be kept on file. You student should keep this copy in his or her English binder.