



HILLSBOROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

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Principal

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January 2, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Eighth grade students who are interested in being considered for placement into 9th grade honors level courses will complete skills assessments in literacy, social studies and world language classes within the next few weeks. These skills assessments serve two purposes. First, they will be used by teachers and administrators to evaluate the skills students have developed prior to exiting the middle school. Second, the results will be part of the overall consideration for admission to the Hillsborough High School Honors program in their respective content areas.

Instructions for Student Application for 9th Grade Honors Programs

If you and your child believe that Honors Literacy, Science, or Social Studies may be a good match, please do the following:

Students must complete the [HHS 9th Grade Honors Course Interest Form](#) on line by January 9th.
(Click the link above)

Literacy -

Hillsborough Middle School's Literacy Department will be completing a review of all eighth grade students for the purpose of making placement recommendations for freshman English courses at the high school. Placement decisions are based on multiple measures including a student's performance on summative reading and writing assessments for units 1-2, which include multiple choice questions and responses to open-ended questions (OEQ), standardized assessment data, and a writing exemplar task on Jan. 15, 2019, for those interested students.

English 9 Honors is offered to students who:

- Demonstrate initiative-reads more than just the required reading to gain more understanding
- Demonstrate a sense of responsibility and self-discipline
- Engage in meaningful group discussion
- Demonstrate critical and analytical thinking, reading, and writing skills

Mathematics – Math Midterm Assessment for all students the week of January 28, 2019

Please note that students will be placed in ninth grade mathematics courses based on their mathematics placement in grade eight, their test averages, mid-term score and grade 7 PARCC score for mathematics. The math department midterms are tentatively scheduled for the week of January 28th. Placement for ninth grade math courses will be done by the mathematics department and the process requires nothing additional from you or your child at this time.

Social Studies - Skills Assessment for all students in early January

An in-class skills assessment related to honors placement will consist of excerpts from two primary source documents – one from an ancient civilization students studied at HMS and another from a more recent civilization students have not yet studied. Through a series of questions, students will be asked to analyze the two documents, compare and contrast them with one another and make inferences using their critical reading skills. World History Honors is offered to students who have demonstrated success in these areas and wish to take a rigorous social studies course in high school. The course requires a great deal of independent reading of primary and secondary sources, individual and group projects, and high levels of analytical thinking, writing, and discussion. A placement for world history honors in 9th grade will be based on average Social Studies grades in marking periods one and two, historical thinking and writing skills, teacher input, and performance on the social studies skills assessment.

Science

The Science Honors courses require high levels of analytical thinking and discussion, as well as application of mathematical skills. For Honors placement consideration, Science grades for marking periods one and two, 8th grade science common assessments, 7th grade science common assessments, math level, math test scores, and teacher evaluations will be considered. Please be aware that for your child to be eligible for Honors Science, he or she must currently be in Algebra 1 or Geometry.

World Language Level II or III

Students entering 9th grade may elect to begin or continue world language studies in any of the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Latin, or Spanish at the introductory level (Level I). However, students who have successfully completed world language studies in earlier grades and demonstrate advanced proficiency in the language may be recommended for Level II or Level III in 9th grade. Recommendations for placement at Level II or III will be based on current grades in world language, performance on a skills assessment (oral & written language proficiency) that will be conducted in class in mid-February, and teacher recommendation.

Finally, please note that all students will be evaluated for math level placement and world language level recommendation. However, if you and your child believe that Honors English I, Honors Science, or Honors World History may be a good match, students must complete the [HHS 9th Grade Honors Course Interest Form](#) on line by January 9th in order to be considered for the honors programs in any or all of those three areas.

Sincerely,



Joseph Trybulski, Ed.D.
Principal