



**West Orange Public Schools**  
**179 Eagle Rock Avenue**  
**West Orange, New Jersey 07052**  
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**Superintendent of Schools**

**Mr. Jeffrey Rutzky**

February 28, 2018

Dear 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Guardians:

This letter is an overview of the middle school honors program and the upcoming timeline for your child to take the honors assessment(s). English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies honors courses are offered in grades 6-8. Each honors course provides rigorous and challenging learning opportunities specific to the subject content. The honors course is offered daily for 55 minutes, the same amount of time the other classes in the school are offered.

To help you better understand the Middle School Honors Program, two meetings have been scheduled. The information presented at the meetings is the same; therefore, you can choose which meeting is best for your schedule.

- **Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Liberty Middle School Auditorium**
- **Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium**

**Students must have a “B” average across the first two marking periods to take the placement test for either English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science or Social Studies. A letter from the principal will be sent home prior to the testing dates indicating whether your child is eligible to take the placement test. Again, he/she must have a “B” average across the first two marking periods.**

Parents or Guardians must:

- Complete the form on the last page of this letter
- Place a checkmark on the line(s) indicating the honors test your child will take
- Print and sign your name on the bottom of the form
- Have your child return the form to his/her homeroom teacher by Monday, March 12, 2018

**If the form is not returned by Monday, March 12, 2018, your child will not be able to take the placement test(s).**

## **Testing Dates**

Testing dates are for students currently in 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

1. **Monday, March 19, 2018 – English Language Arts**
  - 45 minutes for placement test; 60 minutes for writing sample (The writing sample for English Language Arts will also be used for the Social Studies writing sample. Those students who are not taking the English Language Arts test but are taking the Social Studies test will join the students who are completing the English Language Arts writing sample after the Language Arts placement test is completed.)
2. **Tuesday, March 20, 2018 – Social Studies**
  - 45 minutes for placement test; writing sample is completed with English Language Arts
3. **Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – Mathematics**
  - 45 minutes for placement test; 45 minutes for open ended response
4. **Friday, March 23, 2018 – Science**
  - 45 minutes for placement test; 45 minutes for constructive response

After your child takes the placement test and completes the writing sample, two honors subject area teachers from the next grade level will score the placement test and writing sample. For example, if your 5<sup>th</sup> grade child takes the English Language Arts placement test and writing sample, a current 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts and Social Studies honors teacher utilize a rubric to score the writing sample. The results are reviewed by the subject supervisor and principal to determine if your child met the required entrance criteria.

Parent or Guardian permission is required for your child to take the placement test and writing sample. **Please complete the form on the last page and return it to your child's homeroom teacher no later than Monday, March 12, 2018.**

## **Results**

The results of the honors testing will be mailed on Monday, April 23, 2018 indicating whether your child was accepted or not accepted into the honors class. If your child did not earn the required 85 points, but did earn 80 points, you can appeal to the principal. The scoring rubric will be included in the mailing.

## **Sample Questions and Honors Prep Material**

Sample questions and honors preparation materials are located on the website under Middle School Honors.

**Honors Placement Test**  
**Permission Form**

I hereby grant permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to take the placement test and writing sample based on the checkmarks below.

**Please place a check mark on the line for any placement test you want your child to take.**

\_\_\_ I grant permission for my child to take the placement test for English Language Arts.

\_\_\_ I grant permission for my child to take the placement test for Mathematics.

\_\_\_ I grant permission for my child to take the placement test for Science.

\_\_\_ I grant permission for my child to take the placement test for Social Studies.

**Students must have a “B” average across the first two marking periods to take the placement test for either English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science or Social Studies. A letter from the principal will be sent home prior to the testing dates indicating whether your child is eligible to take the placement test. Again, he/she must have a “B” average for the first two marking periods.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Print First and Last)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Homeroom Teacher’s Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Number

**This page must be returned to your child’s homeroom teacher no later than Monday, March 12, 2018 or your child will not be permitted to take the honors test(s).**