



West Orange Public Schools
179 Eagle Rock Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey 07052
(973) 669-5400 ext. 20512 Fax (973) 669-1432

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jeffrey Rutzky

March 10, 2017

Dear 6th and 7th Grade Parents:

This letter is to inform you about 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 7 and 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 in grades 7 and 8, I am hosting two meetings. The information presented in the honors meetings is the same; therefore, you can choose which meeting is best for your schedule.

- **Monday, March 13th at 7:00pm in the Liberty Middle School Auditorium**
- **Tuesday, March 14th at 7:00pm in the Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium**

All 6th and 7th grade students are welcome to take the placement test and writing sample for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and/or Social Studies. Your child may take one, two, three or all four of the honors placement tests and complete the writing samples. This year's placement test and writing sample will be completed electronically on the Chromebook that your child uses frequently in his/her classes.

It is highly recommended that your child have a grade of C or higher in the current subject before having him/her take the honors assessment(s). Furthermore, if your child has a grade of D or F, you must contact the principal before your child can take the placement test or complete the writing sample. Attending the meeting will help you understand the expectations of an honors course.

To take the honors placement test, you must:

- complete the form on the last page of this letter,
- place a checkmark on the line(s) indicating the honors course(s) 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 Thursday, March 16, 2017.

If the form is not returned by Thursday, March 16, 2017, your child will not be able to take the placement test(s).

Below are the dates and time allocations for each honors test. This is for students currently in grades 6 and 7.

1. **Wednesday, March 22, 2017 – English Language Arts**
 - 45 minutes for placement test; 60 minutes for writing sample (The writing sample for English Language Arts is also 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 taking the English Language Arts writing sample after the English Language Arts placement test is completed.)
2. **Friday, March 24, 2017 – Social Studies**
 - 45 minutes for placement test; writing sample is completed with English Language Arts
3. **Wednesday, March 29, 2017 – Mathematics**
 - 45 minutes for placement test; 45 minutes for writing sample
4. **Friday, March 31, 2017 – Science**
 - 45 minutes for placement test; 45 minutes for writing sample

If your child is currently in an honors class and has an average of 85% or higher for marking periods 1 and 2, he/she is waived from taking the placement test for that honors subject. Furthermore, if your child is in an honors class and has an average of 95% or higher for marking periods 1 and 2, he/she is waived from all entrance criteria and will be placed in that specific honors course the next year, pending parent approval.

After your child takes the placement test and writing sample, two honors subject area teachers from the next grade level will score the placement test and writing sample. For example, if a 6th grade student takes the English Language Arts placement test and writing sample, a current 7th 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 the child meets the required entrance criteria.

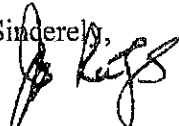
Students entering 7th or 8th grade during the 2017-2018 school year must have a total of 65 points from the placement test, writing sample and current averaged subject grade (averaged for the first two marking periods) to meet the entrance criteria. For Math and Science, the placement test has a maximum of 35 points, writing sample has a maximum of 25 points, and the current averaged subject grade has a maximum of 20 points, totaling 80 points. For English Language Arts and Social Studies, the placement test has a maximum of 20 points, writing sample has a maximum of 40 points, and the current subject grade has a maximum of 20 points, totaling 80 points.

If your child receives at least 65 points on the placement test, writing sample and current averaged subject grade, he/she will have a teacher rating scale completed by the current subject teacher. For your child to be accepted into the honors course, he/she must receive a total of 80 points between the placement test, writing sample, current averaged subject grade and teacher rating scale.

If your child does not receive at least 65 points on the placement test, writing sample and current averaged subject grade, he/she will not have the teacher rating scale completed. Your child will not be accepted into the honors course unless he/she receives between 55-64 total points on the placement test, writing sample and current averaged subject grade. With 55-64 points, you can complete and submit the Appeals Form to your current principal before May 5, 2017. Your child's principal will have the current subject teacher complete the teacher rating scale to determine if your child meets the expectations for the honors course. **The Appeal Form will not be accepted if your child does not receive at least 55 total points between the placement test, writing sample and current averaged subject grade.**

Your permission is required for your child to take the placement test and writing sample. **Please complete the form on the next page and return it to your child's homeroom teacher no later than Thursday, March 16, 2017.**

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Rutzky

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.

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 Thursday, March 16, 2017 or your child will not be permitted to take the honors test(s).