

Jr. High Honors Courses

Indicators for Student Success

Please thoughtfully consider the following criteria as you are deciding about whether Jr. High honors level courses will provide the most appropriate learning environment. A student should:

1. Typically receive a 3 (Proficient) or 4 (Highly Proficient) on the yearly Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence test in the specific subject area students are considering taking an honors course in.
2. Consistently earn an “A” or “B” (or a “3” for 6th graders) for the subject in which students desire to take an honors course.
3. Have a high level of interest and strong desire to be challenged in the subject in which they would like to take an honors course.
4. Consistently exhibit most of the following characteristics:

Learning/Intellectual Characteristics:

- Enjoys tasks that are more challenging than average
- Has a ready grasp of underlying principles and can quickly make valid generalization about events, people, and things
- Tries to understand complicated material by separating it into its respective parts
- Analyzes problems and considers alternatives
- Enjoys complex concepts and processes

Motivational/Affective Characteristics:

- Becomes absorbed and truly involved in certain topics or problems
- Needs little external motivation to follow through in work completion
- Often requires little direction from teachers
- Is highly self-motivated and persistent
- Has high expectations of self and others

When deciding whether to enroll a student in a particular subject area honors course, please consider the following subject specific characteristics:

Math/Science:

- Is interested in numerical analysis
- Has a good memory for storing main features of problems and solutions
- Reasons effectively and efficiently
- Organizes data and experiments to discover patterns or relationships
- Is flexible in solving problems

Social Studies/Language Arts:

- Has advanced vocabulary for age or grade level
- Reads a great deal; does not avoid difficult material
- Enjoys language/verbal or written communication; has advanced communication skills
- Organizes ideas and sequences in preparation for speaking and writing
- Likes to study and research various areas of interest

In short, students that are successful in honors courses are those that are proactive in class, generating ideas independently with a willingness to examine their thoughts. Also, rigorous study and participation are crucial for student success. If a student is not prepared to work hard and engage in academic discourse, these classes are not the right fit.