



# FSSD Honors Program

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an introduction for parents of rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders

Franklin Special School District  
February 1, 2018

# Honors Program Grades and Subjects

**Grades:** 5-8 at Poplar Grove Middle School, Freedom Intermediate School, and Freedom Middle School



**Subjects:** English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science

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Algebra I, Geometry, French I-A

and I-B, Spanish I-A and I-B (High school credit courses offered in 7-8 grades)

# Honors Program Mission and Vision

**Mission:** To maximize the potential of students who demonstrate outstanding intellectual achievement, performance, and ability by emphasizing in-depth analytical thinking and creative problem-solving.

**Vision:** Students empowered to acquire the academic skills necessary for success in advanced placement courses.



# How Are These Accomplished?

## MORE...

- Challenging Materials
- Emphasis on Rigor
- Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Compacting of Material
- Coaching Student Responsibility
- Experience with Productive Struggle



# Characteristics of Students Who are Typically Successful in Honors

- Demonstrates an ongoing ability to actively participate in class and punctually complete advanced level assignments
- Has an innate drive to dig deeper into the content beyond classroom experiences and exposure
- Exhibits sound organizational skills to sustain the rigorous pace of coursework

# Myths and Misconceptions

- MYTH: Honors is a gifted program.
- MISCONCEPTION: Honors students will make all As.
- MYTH: Honors classes must be taken if a student qualifies.
- MISCONCEPTION: Honors students are smarter and/or behave better than other students.
- MYTH: Honors guarantees placement in high school advanced placement classes.
- MISCONCEPTION: To take honors classes in high school, a student must be in the FSSD Honors Program.

# Honors Program Assessment

- Each year the Administrative Honors Committee evaluates the process for admission into Honors classes and the assessments used.
- Tennessee has moved to a more rigorous standardized assessment aligned to the revised state academic standards.
- After a thorough review of TNReady results, the committee has determined that these scores will be used to determine eligibility for Honors.



# Honors Program Qualifying Scores

- **English/Language Arts (ELA)**  
90<sup>th</sup> percentile on Spring 2017 TNReady ELA
- **Math:** 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on Spring 2017  
TNReady Math
- **Science:** 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on Spring 2017  
TNReady Science

***Please note:***

***Qualifying cut scores are established annually  
based on the tested cohort.***



# 2018-2019 Honors Program Timeline

- Parents will be notified by mail about scores and acceptance into Honors classes in early February.
- School level meetings will be held in March/April
  - Parents submit Honors Commitment Form
  - *FIS: March 13, 6:30*
  - *PGMS: April 10, 6:00*
- Reconsideration Request Forms must be returned to FIS or PGMS by April 30, 2018.



# Additional Considerations for Honors Program Acceptance

- If a student does not make the qualifying cut score, it is the responsibility of the parent to request reconsideration.
- During the reconsideration process, the school administrator will collect data from the STAR Reading and/or Math assessments, and previous teachers.
- If a student meets both of the points for reconsideration and space is available, the student will be given the opportunity to enroll in Honors classes.

# Final Considerations for Honors Program Acceptance

- If a student does not meet the requirements through reconsideration, the parent may request a meeting to discuss the override option with the administration at the school the student will attend in 2018-2019.
- The parent and administrator will examine multiple sources of data to ensure the parent makes the most appropriate decision for his or her child.



# Useful Websites

- <http://www.fssd.org>: Under Parents and Students, click on Parent Information, go to Curriculum/Instruction and click on the Honors Program tab



- TNReady Parent Resources at <https://www.tn.gov/education/assessment/tready/tready-parent-resources.html>

# Administrative Honors Committee

- FIS: Dr. Joel Hoag (hoagjoe@fssd.org)
- FIS: Mrs. Tracie Gallon (gallontra@fssd.org)
- FMS: Dr. Kristi Jefferson (jeffersonkri@fssd.org)
- FMS: Mrs. Amanda Muniz (munizama@fssd.org)
- PGMS: Mr. Chris Treadway  
(treadwaychr@fssd.org)
- PGMS: Dr. JP Orman (ormanjoh@fssd.org)
- FSSD: Dr. Catherine Stephens, Mrs. Mary Decker, Ms. Beth Farrar, Dr. Kay Boan

# Administrative Honors Committee

For more information or questions, please contact the principal at your child's 2018-19 school (Dr. Hoag, Dr. Jefferson, or Mr. Treadway)

OR

Dr. Boan at [boankay@fssd.org](mailto:boankay@fssd.org) or 615-794-6624.