

February 2021

**Re: Grade 7 Honors Program Application**

Dear Grade 6 Parents:

The Junior High School Honors Program is rigorous and demanding. Many aspects of a student's life, in and out of school, should be considered before applying for admission to the Program. It is comprehensive in scope and faster in the pace of instruction. Students are expected to maintain high standards of performance at all times. **There are guidelines to remain in the Program, including but not limited to maintaining an 85% or higher average.** Also, Junior High Math and Science Honors classes are accelerated courses which culminate in Regents exams at the end of grade 8. Students who are successful in Math and Science Honors can earn high school credit.

The **on-line application form** is must be filled out by all 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents and can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#). Candidates for admission to the Honors Program must meet specific criteria for eligibility in order to be accepted. Applications will be reviewed and final determinations for admission will be made by the department directors. **The completion of an application does not guarantee acceptance into the Honors Program. Only those students who score at the top of the matrix (see sample below) and have demonstrated high levels of academic achievement are accepted. You will be notified in writing of our determination.**

Please note that, due to our team/block scheduling configuration, students must qualify for and be placed in both Math and Science together as a block, and/or in both ELA and Social Studies together as a block.

**Enclosed is an overview of the characteristics of the Honors Program and a sample of the Teachers' Rating Matrix. A required essay is also part of the application process, which will be administered by your child's teacher.** The district directors can also answer specific questions related to the application process or the individual courses in the program.

Please take time to review and discuss the above information and the Honors criteria with your child. After careful consideration, please fill out the [online application form](#) to select whether or not you wish to apply for the Program. In either case, please complete and submit the form by **March 12.**

**This is the only opportunity that your child will have to apply for Grade 7 Honors. However, students who meet eligibility criteria can be accepted into the Honors Program in subsequent years.**

Sincerely,

**Jessica Turner**, ELA & Social Studies K-12, x40128

Jessica.turner@wcsdny.org

**Adam Panzer**, Mathematics & Science K-12 x40175

adam.panzer@wcsdny.org

## General Characteristics of the Grade 7 Honors Program

### Mathematics/Science Honors Program

- Different textbook
- Different curriculum
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade topics in one year
- Pacing is accelerated
- More detailed and more complicated material
- No review of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Multiple late assignments will result in a reevaluation of the student's placement
- No extra credit work is available
- Independent application of previously taught material
- Leads to high school Regents courses and NYS Regents exams for credit in grade 8
- **There are guidelines to remain in the program, including but not limited to maintaining an 85% or higher average.**

### ELA/Social Studies Honors Program

- More complex and challenging classwork, homework, projects and tests
- Different Final Exam
- More independent, research-based projects
- More homework, including weekend work
- Greater emphasis on independent reading/writing, including essays and short answer responses
- Multiple late assignments will result in a reevaluation of the student's placement
- No extra credit work is available
- Independent application of previously taught material
- Pacing is accelerated, content enriched
- Students will be expected to participate in class discussions on a regular basis
- Additional Summer Reading assignment for ELA
- **There are guidelines to remain in the program, including but not limited to maintaining an 85% or higher average.**



**Teachers' Rating Matrix (SAMPLE)**

	<b>Consistently</b>	<b>Frequently</b>	<b>Occasionally</b>	<b>Seldom</b>
<b>Consistently</b> displays the characteristic, ability or skill.				
<b>Frequently</b> displays the characteristic, ability or skill.				
<b>Occasionally</b> displays the characteristic, ability or skill.				
<b>Seldom</b> displays the characteristic, ability or skill.				
<hr/>				
1. Has good attendance.	3	2	1	0
2. Completes homework assignments on time.	3	2	1	0
3. Completes homework assignments to a high degree of quality.	3	2	1	0
4. Follows directions.	3	2	1	0
5. Has strong organizational skills.	3	2	1	0
6. Works respectfully and cooperatively with others in the classroom.	3	2	1	0
7. Works well independently.	3	2	1	0
8. Is a good listener.	3	2	1	0
9. Has good presentation skills.	3	2	1	0
10. Shows leadership qualities.	3	2	1	0
<hr/>				
11. Actively participates in class activities and discussions.	6	4	2	0
12. Projects and extended tasks are completed at the highest quality.	6	4	2	0
13. Has excellent literacy skills.	6	4	2	0
14. Has excellent computational skills.	6	4	2	0
15. Demonstrates critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze and solve problems.	6	4	2	0

**TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_(60)**