

David E. Owens Middle School
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www.newmilfordschools.org

Mr. James DeLalla
Principal



Mr. Timothy S. Coughlin
Vice Principal

January 23, 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

The application and selection process for our 8th grade honors classes is quickly approaching. In an effort to make the selection process as comprehensive as possible, we implement a variety of tangible factors to evaluate students' eligibility. Please be sure to read the entirety of this letter closely as there are many details and important upcoming dates to note.

Honors classes are offered in the core subjects of English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Social Studies and Science. Depending on the subject(s) a student applies for, there are two to three steps involved in the application process. All students who are interested in applying for honors classes are required to complete an application of intent no later than Friday, February 15th, by 3:00PM. Students can access the application via Google Forms starting Monday, February 4th. Within the application, students will need to explain why they are interested in being considered for Honors classes, as well as indicate the particular honors classe(s) that they wish to apply for.

Once the application of intent has been submitted and reviewed, qualifying students who applied for ELA, Social Studies, **and/or** Science honors classes are required to complete a writing prompt based upon a reading selection. These writing prompts will be offered after school on Tuesday, February 26th and Thursday, February 28th at 3pm. Students only need to attend on one of the days. Additionally, any qualifying students who applied for Math and/or Science honors classes will be required to complete the Orleans Hanna Algebra Readiness assessment on Tuesday, March 12th or Thursday, March 14th at 3pm. The results of these assessments, as well as their current class grades, teacher input, and standardized test scores will be used to determine eligibility. Final decision letters will be mailed home in June.

If you have any further questions or need clarification on any of the enclosed information, please contact your child's school counselor directly.

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Grade 7 (A-H)

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Grade 7 (I-Z)

Sincerely,

James De Lalla
Principal

Course Descriptions

Honors Language Arts - The Honors Language Arts course examines the art of Language in all its forms, reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The work is designed to prepare students with the academic skills necessary as they transition to high school. Honors students will complete additional work in reading, writing and research, much of which will require outside of class time to complete. The course encourages more independent learning and in-depth exploration of the content. Students are asked to create original work with their own original thoughts and ideas about the material. Throughout the year honors students will be required to do multiple assignments that involve public speaking both in and outside of class. Students taking this course should be aware that to be successful in the honors ELA class, they must be self-motivated, outgoing, and willing to go above and beyond the expectations of any ELA class they have taken before.

It is strongly recommended that any students interested in Honors Social Studies take Honors Language Arts as well. This is due to the fact that many of the research projects correlate with one another.

Honors Algebra 1 - The textbook for Algebra I – Honors is *Big Ideas Math: Algebra I – A Common Core Curriculum*. In order to be successful, all students will be expected to master the following concepts: solving linear equations, solving linear inequalities, graphing linear functions, writing linear functions, solving systems of linear equations, exponential functions, polynomial equations and factoring, graphing quadratic functions, solving quadratic equations, radical functions and equations, and data analysis. Students will also gain experience in the use of the TI – 83 Graphing Calculator. In addition, in order to proceed to the next honors-level mathematics course, students will be expected to pass the Algebra I PARCC Test. While math skills and problem-solving capability are required for success, a mature attitude and the capacity to persevere are equally important.

Honors Science - The Honors Science course examines topics in physical science. Throughout the course students are expected to design experiments, and collect data by making accurate and detailed observations and measurements. Students will develop skills to analyze test results using math and logic in order to identify trends or lack of trends and accurately come to conclusions. There will be an emphasis on properly writing lab reports and explanations. The written work in this course must be accurate, direct and to the point. The expectation being that all written work and results can be easily understood after only one reading. Students must have a strong working knowledge of math. This course requires students to independently take notes, follow directions, be creative, and work safely and collaboratively. Finally, students must be able to voluntarily express input on course materials and content so that when possible the content can be student directed. As stated earlier, to be successful in this course a student must possess strong math skills and writing skills.

Honors Social Studies - The Social Studies course explores the subjects of Middle Ages, Renaissance, Age of Exploration and Discovery, and U.S. Civics. In addition to these subjects, students will also participate in a Junior Model United Nations unit. This unit discusses the history of the United Nations and the components of participating in a mock United Nations conference. The students will work on their primary and secondary source analyses skills through this course, as well as writing argumentative and informational essays. The class will also conduct research assignments that will work on their skills of investigation.

Please note: There will be a summer assignment for students this year. Also it is strongly recommended that any student who is interested in Honors Social Studies to take Honors Language Arts as well. This is due to the fact that many of the research projects correlate with one another.