



VAMS Honors Course Application

Applications are due to the VAMS office no later than Thursday, April 11, 2019

Student Name: _____

Honors course(s) you are applying for:

8th Grade Honors Courses

_____ Math (Algebra) _____ Reading/Language Arts (ELAR) _____ Social Studies _____ Science

Being in an honors course is a challenge and a privilege and spots in these classes are limited and in high demand. Please take the time to carefully review the important information below regarding honors classes so you can make a well-informed decision about whether an honors class is the right fit for your child.

Honors Course Criteria- All students must have this application signed by a parent and meet 2 out of the 3 criteria for entrance into the honors course (* Exception - 8th grade Algebra I will have one criterion for high school credit)

8th Reading/ ELA

***There will be a mandatory summer ELAR assignment through Google Classroom. Students will be a required to complete the assignment by the first day of school. The assignment will be graded and an assessment over the content will be given during the first 2 weeks of school.**

- Writing Sample and 3rd Quarter Reading Benchmark in top 15%
- 1st – 3rd 9 weeks average of 95 or above in 7th grade reading and language arts class; 90 or above in 7th grade honors reading and language arts class
- 1st & 2nd Quarter Tests average in top 15% of the class in 7th grade Reading/ ELA

8th Algebra

***There will be mandatory summer math assignments through Google Classroom. Students will be a required to complete the assignments by the first day of school. The assignments will be graded and an assessment over the content will be given during the first 2 weeks of school.**

- Entrance/ readiness exam to gauge students' understanding and readiness level

8th Science

- Entrance/ readiness exam in top 15%
- 1st– 3rd 9 weeks grade average of 95 or above in 7th grade science class
- 1st – 3rd Quarter Tests average in top 15% of the class in 7th grade science

8th Social Studies

- 4th Quarter 7th grade social studies test in top 15%
- 1st– 3rd 9 weeks grade average of 95 or above in 7th grade social studies class
- 1st – 3rd Quarter Tests average in top 15% of the class in 7th grade social studies

Appeals for Placement:

The student or parent can email a letter of appeal containing the reasons why the student should be accepted into the class to Dr. Moore by Friday, May 31, 2019 at kmoore@vanalstyneisd.org. If an appeal letter is submitted by May 31st, then the student will have the opportunity to retest. Retesting will be in the VAMS on June 17th-19th from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. The parent will be notified if the student met the criteria on the entrance/readiness exam to qualify for an honors course.

Exit Policy:

If a student is placed in an honors course, he/ she must stay in the program for at least 9 weeks but at the end of the nine weeks can be exited by the parent or teacher. If a student has a class average below 80 at a grade reporting time, he/she is placed on probation for a three-week period. During this time, the grade must be brought back up to an 80 or the student may be exited from the course. A student whose grade average remains below 80 in an honors class may benefit more from the regular academic class in that subject than from the honors class where they are falling behind because of the pace or depth of the course content. A student may also be exited from the course for repeated disciplinary issues or failure to turn work in on time.

Honors Course Late Work Policy

Students may only have one late assignment per 9 week grading period. Subsequent late assignments will result in automatic Saturday school.

By signing this application, I understand and agree to the rigors, expectations, and exit policy of being enrolled in an honors class if I am chosen.

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Results will be sent home on Monday, May 20, 2019

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____