

ROCKY RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HONORS PROGRAM PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

Placement in an Honors course at the Middle School is a decision that needs to be made in the best interests of each child and based upon a variety of information and data. Some of this information is objective in nature and can easily be identified. Other information is more subjective and is generated based upon a teacher's perception for potential success given the amount and quality of student work observed in class.

Before determining placement into Honors classes, the Kensington staff (for placement in classes for grade six) and the Middle School staff (for placement in classes for grades seven, eight, and nine) examine a number of criteria judged to be indicators of potential success in an Honors course. Each child is evaluated according to the indicators listed below and recommendations are made.

1. TerraNova test scores in the 95th percentile or higher locally in the areas being considered for placement. For language arts, scores of 14 or higher on district wide writing samples for grade 5 and 6, a score of 16 or higher for grade 7 and a score of 18 or higher for grade 8.
2. A rank of ADVANCED on The Ohio Achievements Test for the subject of the honors class.
3. Strong understanding of how to identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs (language arts).
4. Strong organizational skills in writing and speaking.
5. Consistently turns in homework assignments and projects on time.
6. Articulates ideas clearly in writing and speaking.
7. Effective speaking including strong vocabulary use.
8. Demonstrates skill in the application of math facts (math).
9. High ability score (CSI 124).
10. More A's than B's in current math or language arts courses.
11. Teacher recommendation.

Strong work ethic.

Perhaps one of the most important indicators for success would be a strong work ethic. If a student does not choose to perform in the classroom and does not consistently complete homework, success in any class will be unlikely. In the eighth grade, a student's final grade in Algebra or a Foreign Language will be calculated as a high school credit. Dropping one of these honors classes for poor performance is not an option.

Placement decisions need to be made based upon the needs of the individual, not because of what may be perceived as a more socially acceptable choice. Please evaluate a student according to the above criteria and make decisions based upon his/her individual abilities and needs.