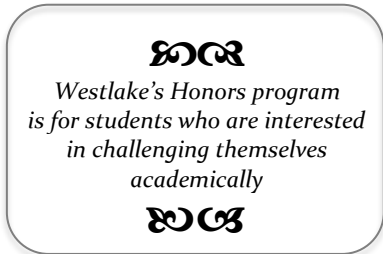


Westlake Middle School Honors Program

8th Grade



Characteristics of Westlake Middle School's Honors Program

- ✓ Motivation-Students are driven to learn by natural curiosity and sense of wonder.
- ✓ Enduring understanding-Students focus on big ideas.
- ✓ Rigor, pace, and scholarly skills are emphasized.
- ✓ Students will be working at and above grade level in all honors classes with emphasis on challenging curriculum and critical thinking.
- ✓ Students will be operating at the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation levels on a regular basis.

High Expectations for Quality Work and Productivity

Student work is expected to be thorough, clear, on/above grade level, and worthy of the time it takes to complete it. Students will go through a six-week period where expectations will be modeled and expected. If a student continues to struggle academically even after receiving additional support, teachers will meet with parents during conferences to identify interventions to help the student be successful.

Homework and Outside Experiences

Students are expected to practice the skills and concepts they learn in the classroom. Teachers will assign meaningful homework or outside experiences on a consistent basis. Students will be expected to come to class prepared for the learning that will occur in the classroom each day. Outside experiences may include projects that will prepare students for upcoming classes.

- **In addition to the body of evidence, current performance in honors classes and teacher input will also be considered when placing students in honors classes for the next school year.**
- **Notification of honors placement will occur in late spring after the student schedules are finalized. A notification will be sent home indicating honors placement by the end of the current school year.**
- **Students selected for honors will be required to sign an honors contract which details expectations for performance.**

8 th Grade Mathematics Curriculum	HONORS 8 th Grade Mathematics Curriculum	Body of Evidence Considered for Honors Placement
<p>s/Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Apply and connect mathematical ideas ➤ Actively construct own understandings and key concepts at the sixth grade level dealing with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Number sense ✓ Algebraic methods ✓ Patterns/functions ✓ Measurement ✓ Probability/statistics ✓ Computation ✓ Geometry <p>Primary Materials Used: <i>Big Ideas</i></p> <p>This class will prepare students for high school mathematics.</p>	<p>Students will explore the language of algebra in verbal, Tabular, graphical, and symbolic forms. Problem solving activities and applications encourage students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions. Increased rigor and accelerated pacing of 9th grade material through the Big Ideas Integrated 1 textbook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Honor strategies that are emphasized include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Abstract reasoning ✓ Multiple perspectives ✓ Creativity ✓ Mathematical confidence ✓ Supporting a strong work ethic ✓ Tenacity in solving multiple step problems <p>Successful completion of this class will prepare students for high school math at an advanced level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 7th grade Honors Math is a prerequisite to 8th grade Honors Math ➤ High proficient to advanced on the MAPS assessment ➤ Successful completion of 7th grade Honors Math with teacher recommendation ➤ High proficient to advanced on the CMAS assessment

8th Grade Language Arts Curriculum The Reading and Writing Workshop Structure will be used to deliver instruction.	HONORS 8th Grade Language Arts Curriculum The Reading and Writing Workshop Structure will be used to deliver instruction.	Body of Evidence Considered for Honors Placement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Summarize, synthesize, and evaluate information from a variety of texts and genres. ➤ Analyze main idea and supporting details in a variety of texts and genres ➤ Infer using information in a variety of texts and genres. ➤ Locate and recall information in texts with different structures. ➤ Use word recognition skills to determine meanings of unfamiliar words to comprehend text. ➤ Use relevant details, supporting examples to develop ideas and content to address purpose and audience. ➤ With an increasing attention to craft, organize and write in various genres using a logical arrangement of ideas and an appropriate structure for the genre, such as introduction, body, and conclusion. ➤ Discuss and analyze texts in partnerships, small groups, and classroom forum. ➤ Orally present projects that demonstrate learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Synthesize and evaluate information from above grade level texts in a variety of genres. ➤ Analyze main idea, supporting details, sequence of events, facts and opinions in a variety of above grade level texts including literary, expository, and technical texts. ➤ Infer by making connections within and among texts. ➤ Locate and recall information in above grade level texts with different structures. ➤ Use word recognition skills to determine meanings of words, including those with multiple meanings to comprehend text. ➤ Draft writing with strong voice, style, and tone of a publishable quality. ➤ With an increasing attention to craft, organize and write in various genres using a logical arrangement of ideas and an appropriate structure for the genre, such as introduction, body, and conclusion. Develop and build drafting, editing, and rewriting capabilities and seek to strengthen writing skills through readings, writings, and feedback. Seek opportunities to publish best work. ➤ Participate in Socratic Seminars where texts are analyzed through critical thinking, connections are made to world application, and material is synthesized into original thought that the student is able to defend and support. ➤ Seek out opportunities to advance areas of personal learning interests and be able to substantiate the purposeful connection to classroom learning, propose a plan/schedule to carry out the project that culminates in a polished and professional looking project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High proficient to advanced on grade level MAPs ➤ Proficient to advanced in all 4 GRCs ➤ Proficient and advanced on a 7th grade writing sample ➤ Teacher Recommendation

8th Grade Science Curriculum	HONORS 8th Grade Science Curriculum	Body of Evidence Considered for Honors Placement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students apply the processes of scientific investigation and design, conduct, communicate about, and evaluate such investigations. ➤ Students know and understand Earth's Place in the Universe through a fundamental exploration of forces, motion, matter and their interactions. ➤ Students construct explanations of how ecosystems work with matter and energy as the focus. ➤ Students learn how energy is the driving factor behind our universe and explain natural phenomena at work. ➤ Students understand the nature of science involves a particular way of building knowledge and making meaning of the natural world. ➤ Students will understand weather, its patterns, how to interpret graphs to predict future weather patterns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students evaluate the processes of scientific investigation and design, conduct, communicate about, synthesize and evaluate such investigations. ➤ Students apply and analyze space systems, interdependent relationship ecosystems, forces and interactions. ➤ Students evaluate the nature of science and how it involves a particular way of building knowledge and making meaning of the natural world. ➤ Work independently and with groups in a student-centered and student-driven classroom. ➤ Complete regularly scheduled homework. ➤ Participate in multiple Socratic seminars. ➤ Apply science concepts other curricula and real-world situations. ➤ Work at a faster pace than regular science. ➤ Understand concepts at a greater depth than regular science. ➤ Understand math equations at a greater depth and solve at a faster pace. ➤ Complete project based learning outcome where some work will be done outside of class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High proficient to advanced on the MAPS Reading Assessment ➤ High proficient to advanced on the MAPS Math Assessment ➤ Successful completion of 7th grade Honor Science with teacher recommendation