

Attention all Eighth Graders: Next year you have a choice to make between regular English or Honors English. In order to find the best fit for you, here are a few questions you can ask yourself:

- Do I enjoy English Language Arts Class?
 - Do I enjoy Reading?
 - Do I enjoy Writing?
 - Did I achieve a strong "A" in Standard Eng Lang Arts or did I maintain an "A" or "B" in English 8 Advanced?
 - Am I considering taking an AP or IB English Class in the future?
 - Am I comfortable speaking and presenting in a classroom setting?
 - Does learning new vocabulary come easily to me?
 - Am I willing to devote 1-2 hours to English homework each night?
 - Do I have good time management skills?
 - Have I factored into my decision the workload requirements for other rigorous/Honors courses I plan to take?
 - Have I factored into my decision my extracurricular activities and other obligations outside of school?
- ✓ **If you answered YES to all of these questions, English 1 Honors might be a good fit for you.**

FRESHMAN OPTIONS:

<u>ELA 1, Standard Course</u> <u>Guided by SMSD</u>	<u>ELA 1 Honors</u> <u>Preparation for AP or IB English for 11th & 12th Gr.</u>
Summer Reading assignment? No	Summer reading assignment? Yes (multiple)*
Several writings over the year	Many writings throughout the year, including In-class timed writings
Presentation Expectations: Some individual as well as group presentations	Presentation Expectations: Individual & group Presentations-verbal contributions are required!
Homework Expectations: --Several times a week, including reading and long-term writings	Homework Expectations: --Most nights, including reading, long-term projects and writings --Heavy emphasis on vocabulary acquisition --Late work is not accepted
10% Semester Final	12% Semester Final Credit for Weighted GPA
Possible Texts: <i>Of Mice and Men</i> , <i>Night</i> , <i>The Odyssey</i> , <i>Romeo & Juliet</i> , <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Texts: <i>The Book Thief</i> , <i>Night</i> , <i>Romeo & Juliet</i> , <i>The Odyssey</i> , <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> <i>Animal Farm</i> and two outside reading choices *Check SM East website for posting of novel and Assignment (<i>The Book Thief</i>)

HONORS WORLD REGIONAL STUDIES

Honors World Regional Studies at SME is a rigorous class designed for students who are extremely talented in social studies and who are committed to challenging themselves with advanced curriculum at an accelerated pace.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS: *Students who enroll in this course should already. . .*

- have succeeded in an advanced course or have made strong A's every quarter in a standard class (see further explanation below)
- be advanced vocabulary learners; students should be able to easily memorize and use new words
- be adept at clearly expressing original and insightful thoughts in writing and class discussion
- be adept at structuring ideas and arguments in a logical, convincing way by supporting claims with precise and relevant examples
- be advanced in reading comprehension, be able to tackle challenging texts at a rigorous pace.

WORK ETHIC EXPECTATIONS: *Students who enroll in this course should be able and willing to. . .*

- learn an average of 10 new vocabulary words per week and recall previous words.
- participate actively and productively in class discussions
- practice excellent time management and self-discipline
- complete most assignments at home rather than in class
- expect that no late work will be accepted for credit
- adhere to a strict honor code: all students are expected to do their own work and read all of the assigned literature, never substituting internet sources or summaries
- be responsible for one's own behavior, complete assignments in a quality fashion, and be accepting and respectful of others' viewpoints
- maintain daily knowledge of current world events for class discussion and/or quizzes

STANDARD vs. HONORS CLASSES: *Please be advised. . .*

The pace of Honors World Region Studies is faster than that of standard World Regional Studies. Students will cover more material more quickly and at a higher level of performance. Some periods of increased intensity are to be expected as students may have overlapping current events, reading, and writing assignments.

It is generally rare for a student to move from a standard class to an honors class from year to year. (Movement has usually been due to a rare occurrence or an extenuating circumstance that prevented a student from taking the honors class the year before.) It is expected that a student who moves from a standard class into an honors class will have received strong A's each quarter in his/her standard class and has a pre-established work ethic. Even then, students who move to an advanced class need to realize and accept that they will likely not have covered all of the skills and material presented in the honors course; therefore, the student is responsible for bridging this gap by acquiring the prerequisite skills independently or through extra assistance.

HONORS MATH CLASSES

Honors Math classes at Shawnee Mission East are rigorous classes designed for students who enjoy math and want to work at an accelerated pace, challenge themselves and are committed to the effort required by the curriculum.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS:

- be able to think independently
- have succeeded in previous math classes with mostly A grades on tests and quizzes
- good at taking notes and reading the book to supplement class instruction

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- expect to be challenged with a faster pace and more in-depth material
- plan on approximately 30 to 60 minutes of homework a night
- finish tests in class with no retakes
- no extra credit
- homework is extremely important but tests and quizzes will make up a large percentage of the grade

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL:

- be a proactive learner
- take notes and keep notes and assignments organized
- be prepared, focused and engaged during class
- ask questions in class and see teacher immediately when you don't understand or have been absent
- complete all homework assignments, assess homework in class and correct missed problems
- study before taking exams and quizzes by doing practice problems, review key concepts in the notes and looking over old homework assignments

HONORS BIOLOGY

Honors Biology at Shawnee Mission East is a rigorous class designed for students who are committed to challenging themselves with an advanced science curriculum at an accelerated pace.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS: *Students who enroll in this course should already. . .*

- have succeeded in previous science classes; have earned a grade of "A" every quarter in these classes
- be advanced vocabulary learners; be able to easily memorize and use new terms
- be capable of following written instructions and successfully complete laboratories
- have developed the skills necessary to identify and design a testable scientific experiment

WORK ETHIC EXPECTATIONS: *Students who enroll in this course should be able and willing to. . .*

- master new vocabulary words associated with each unit of study
- remain current with assigned readings and assignments
- participate actively and productively in class activities
- demonstrate time management and self-discipline
- complete all assigned homework assignments

Course Description:

Biology1 Honors emphasizes learning biological principles and scientific problem solving through an inquiry approach, open-ended investigations, and independent research. Technology and outside reading of current literature provide additional enrichment.

Primary Objectives:

- Given a researchable topic, identify a problem and design an experimental procedure with an option to conduct the research.
- Access, analyze, and evaluate information using multiple resources.
- Communicate scientific understanding using oral and written language, tables, graphs, and appropriate statistical tools.
- Explain how cells perform life processes.
- Explain the molecular and cellular basis of heredity.
- Identify the major structures and functions of plant and animal systems and illustrate an understanding of their relationship to each other.
- Explain the evidence for the Theory of Evolution and the organization of the biological classification system.
- Apply an understanding of the interdependence of organisms and factors in the biosphere.
- Apply an understanding of human ecology.
- Apply the concept of energy flow and productivity through ecosystems.
- Explain some biotechnical processes and their applications.
- Express an opinion toward bioethical issues based on information gathered.
- Appreciate significance of human endeavors in biological science.