

Bettendorf Middle School Honors Program

Honors Language Arts:

- Honors language arts courses will be offered at 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.
- Parents/guardians of incoming 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will be notified of the criteria students will need to meet in order to participate in the honors language arts course by March 1, 2019.
- In March 2019, incoming 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will be given two possible writing prompts. Students will receive the two possible writing prompts at least one week prior. On the day of the assessment, students will have five minutes of think time and 30 minutes to write. All writing samples will be scored by at least two teachers using the writing rubric and an average score will be calculated.

Recommendation Criteria:

- Students entering 6th grade that meet the following criteria will have the opportunity to take the district reading assessment:
 - Winter FAST reading scores at or above the 92nd percentile
 - Average writing sample score of 17 or above as measured by the writing rubric

Incoming 6th grade students who obtain a score of 92% or better on the district reading assessment will be offered the opportunity to enroll in the honors 6th grade language arts course.

- Students entering 7th grade that obtain a score of 20 or higher on a weighted rubric scale will be given the option to enroll in the 7th grade honors language arts course. The rubric will use the following assessment scores:
 - Mid-year MAP reading assessment score
 - Spring FAST reading assessment score
 - Grade point average from 6th grade language arts
 - Average writing sample score
- Students entering 8th grade that obtain a score of 16 or higher on a weighted rubric scale will be given the option to enroll in the 8th grade honors language arts course. The rubric will use the following assessment scores:
 - Mid-year MAP reading assessment score
 - Grade point average from 7th grade language arts
 - Average writing sample score

Transfer Students:

- Students new to BMS will be invited to participate in honors language arts if they score in the 92nd percentile or higher on standardized reading assessment scores and obtain an average writing sample score at 20 or higher as measured by the writing rubric.

Acceleration:

- Students and parents/guardians interested in accelerating students to the next grade level honors **language arts course** will need to meet the following criteria:
 - Winter and Spring FAST reading assessment scores at 98th percentile or higher or MAP reading assessment scores at 98th percentile or higher
 - Average writing sample score of 23 or above as measured by the writing rubric
 - Teacher input

After all data is collected the designated professional learning team will review data utilizing set criterion to determine student needs or eligibility for advancement.

- Students and parent/guardians interested in accelerating students a **grade** level(s) will need to:
 - Work with acceleration committee to complete the Iowa Acceleration Rating Scale
 - Score at the 98th percentile or higher on spring FAST reading and/or MAP reading assessments
 - Score at the 98th percentile or higher on spring FAST math and/or MAP math assessments
 - Complete an approved scale for measuring parent input.

After all data is collected the designated professional learning team will review data utilizing set criterion to determine student needs or eligibility for advancement.

Course Content:

- The 6th grade honors language arts classroom will address the 6th grade Iowa Core language arts standards in a deeper, more rigorous manner with intense project-based learning units.
- The 7th grade honors language arts classroom will address the 7th grade Iowa Core language arts standards in a deeper, more rigorous manner with intense project-based learning units.
- The 8th grade honors language arts classroom will address the 8th grade Iowa Core language arts standards in a deeper, more rigorous manner with intense project-based learning units.

Honors Math:

- Honor math courses will be offered at 6th, 7th and 8th grade.
- Parents/guardians of incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students will be notified of the criteria students will need to meet in order to participate in the honors math course by March 1, 2019.

Recommendation Criteria:

- Students entering 6th-grade that meet the following criteria will have the opportunity to take the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Assessment if they meet the following criteria:
 - Winter FAST math scores at or above the 92nd percentile
 - Mid-Year 5th grade assessment score of 90% or higher

Incoming 6th-grade students who score at 49 or above on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Assessment will be offered the option of enrolling in Honors 6th grade math.

- Students entering 7th grade that meet the following 3 criteria will be given the option to enroll in the 7th-grade honors math course:
 - Mid-year MAP math assessment score at the 90th percentile or higher
 - End of year assessment score of 90% or higher
 - Average of 3.75 or higher grade point average in 6th-grade math
- Students entering 8th grade that meet the following 3 criteria will be given the option to enroll in the 8th-grade honors math course:
 - Mid-year MAP math assessment score at the 90th percentile or higher
 - End of year assessment score of 90% or higher
 - Average of 3.75 or higher grade point average in 7th-grade math

Transfer Students:

Students new to BMS will be given the option to enroll in an honors math course if:

- They score of 90% or higher on a comprehensive assessment of math standards for the prior grade.
- On the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Assessment they earn a score equal to or greater than the cut score below for the grade level the student will be entering on the:

Grade	Score (out of 60)
6th	49
7th	52
8th	54

Acceleration:

- Students and parents/guardians interested in acceleration to next grade level honors **math course** will need to meet all of the following criteria:
 - Assessment score of 98% or higher on a comprehensive exam for the course the student is wanting to skip (i.e. a 6th-grade student wanting to skip 7th-grade honors to enroll in 8th-grade honors would need a 98% or above on a comprehensive test of 7th grade standards).
 - MAP math assessment scores at 98th percentile or higher
 - Iowa Algebra Aptitude Assessment
 - Teacher input

After all data is collected the designated professional learning team will review data utilizing set criterion to determine student needs or eligibility for advancement.

- Students and parent/guardians interested in accelerating students a **grade** level(s) will need to:
 - Work with acceleration committee to complete the Iowa Acceleration Rating Scale
 - Score at the 98th percentile or higher on spring FAST reading and/or MAP reading assessments
 - Score at the 98th percentile or higher on spring FAST math and/or MAP math assessments
 - Complete an approved scale for measuring parent input.

After all data is collected the designated professional learning team will review data utilizing set criterion to determine student needs or eligibility for advancement.

Course Content:

- The 6th grade honors math classroom will address the 6th grade Iowa Core math standards in a deeper, more rigorous manner with additional enrichment topics.
- The 7th grade honors math classroom will address the 7th grade Iowa Core math standards in a deeper, more rigorous manner with additional enrichment topics.
- 2019-20: **Honors Algebra 1 in 8th grade** will be offered to students who had a 3.75 GPA or above in Honors 7th grade math. High school credit will be awarded for successful completion of the course and the course will appear on the student's high school transcript as a high school math credit. It will not figure into the student's high school GPA. (If a student withdraws from Algebra 1 during 8th grade, it will not be listed on their HS transcript. Only upon successful completion of the course 4th quarter will the course added to the HS transcript.)
- Beginning in 2020-21: **Honors 8th-grade math** will address the 8th grade Iowa Core Standards in a deeper, more rigorous manner with additional enrichment topics.

The cut-off scores and percentiles used to determine eligibility were chosen based on national norms where possible. We also looked at past performance data from previous classes to help determine the criteria.

Rationale for change in Honors Math Courses

With the implementation of the Iowa Core, there were significant changes to the middle school math curriculum. Much of the content of the pre-core Algebra 1 course was pushed down to the middle grades. Content that used to be taught in the middle grades and then reviewed in Algebra 1 is now expected to be mastered prior to Algebra 1. In addition, the Geometry standards of the middle grades are also important building blocks for the high school Geometry course.

It used to be that, for the most part, math in the middle grades meant that the same content was taught and/or reviewed each year. Accelerating students who did not need the repetition was a logical way to challenge students. With the changes in the content of middle school math, it is important that all students have time to learn deeply the content of the middle grades Iowa Core.

In order to ensure students have the needed time, each grade level honors math course will focus heavily on the Iowa Core standards for the grade. The honors course curriculum will be enriched with additional topics to extend the learning of the students who required a challenge in addition to learning the Iowa Core standards deeply.

Other points that lead to the decision:

- The ACT Integrating Essential Skills (40–43%) - These questions address concepts typically learned before 8th grade, such as rates and percentages; proportional relationships; area, surface area, and volume; average and median; and expressing numbers in different ways. Students will solve problems of increasing complexity, combine skills in longer chains of steps, apply skills in more varied contexts, understand more connections, and become more fluent.
- The Regents Index for college admissions in Iowa recommends four years of high school math. Looking at data from the current senior class and the two previous graduating classes, only about 42% of the seniors enrolled in the 4th year of math. In addition, only 42% of those seniors took an AP math course (either AB Calculus or Statistics).
- Students who wish to take an AP Math course in high school can still achieve this without being accelerated in middle school math by doubling up and taking two math courses in one year during high school.