



**Attention for Fall 2017!**  
All students interested in  
Enrolling in English I Honors  
at Downers Grove North or South High School

District 99 requires all students interested in English I Honors placement to complete a writing prompt. The process should take approximately 50 minutes. The students may choose to attend any one of the following sessions (can complete this at either campus no matter which school you will enroll at):



Wednesday, November 29, 2017 - South High – Room C364 – 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Thursday, November 30, 2017 - South High – Room C364 – 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 2, 2017 - North High – Room 349 – 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Students do not need to pre-register; they should just report to the assigned room on the day they choose. We ask that students bring a writing utensil. Lined paper will be provided.

See more details on reverse side!

Dear Parents of Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders:

This letter serves to inform you of the **procedure for placing students in an honors-level English class next year in District 99.**

As in previous years, students who are interested in the English honors program are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Grades in Language Arts and Reading in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Teacher recommendation from 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher
- Standardized test scores (MAP/STAR/Performance Series)
- An essay

These criteria will be examined holistically, with each component playing a critical role in placement decisions.

In an effort for teachers to gain uniform insight about a student's writing ability and critical thinking skills, students will be asked to write an impromptu essay in a controlled environment. **This is where we need your help.**

Students are asked to report to **one** of the following testing sites to write an essay that will be evaluated by English teachers at the high school. Students may elect to write the essay at either school; they do not have to report to the campus they actually will attend. Students do not need to pre-register; they should just report to the assigned room on the day they choose. We ask that students bring a writing utensil; paper will be provided.

- Wednesday, November 29 at South High School – 4:30-5:30 p.m. in Room C364
- Thursday, November 30 at South High School – 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room C364
- Saturday, December 2 at North High School – 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Room 349

Students will have approximately 50 minutes to write the essay. While teachers are not expecting students' work to be error free, the essay will provide insight into a student's writing skills and thinking process that may not otherwise surface in the above mentioned evaluation tools.

**Any student** who is interested in the English honors program should attend one of these writing sessions. Students need not currently be enrolled in an honors class to apply for the program. Once a student attends a writing session, the other information (grades, teacher recommendation, and standardized test scores) will be gathered so that a complete evaluation can be made.

If your student cannot attend one of the writing sessions but is interested in the honors program, please contact the English department chair at the school your son/daughter will attend to make alternative arrangements. We certainly do not want anyone to miss out on the honors program because of difficulty getting to the testing site. However, please note that it is difficult to schedule make-up sessions, so we would appreciate you making every effort to attend one of the scheduled sessions.

We look forward to meeting your child and hope that s/he will take advantage of the opportunity to be considered for the English honors program.

Respectfully,



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