

Dear Parents of Incoming 9th 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 7th and 8th grade
- Teacher recommendation from 8th grade English teacher
- Standardized test scores (MAP/iReady/STAR)
- 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.

- Tuesday, December 4 at South High School – 4:30-5:30 p.m. in Room C364
- Wednesday, December 5 at South High School – 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Room C364
- Saturday, December 8 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.

In order to be considered for the honors program, students must 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 see if alternative arrangements might be possible but know, for a variety of factors, this might not be an option. This must be done prior to the first testing date.

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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Attention



All students interested in Enrolling in English I Honors at Downers Grove North and South

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 one of the following sessions:



Tuesday, December 4, South High – Room C364 – 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5, South High – Room C364 – 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 8, 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.