



“A School Where Dreams Come True!”

Honors Program Selection Process & Expectations

(Updated 9-3-19)



Horizon Science Academy of Lorain is known for its rigorous academic courses. Our curriculum is designed to ensure 100% student proficiency on the state standards as well as a 100% graduation rate and acceptance into college.

Horizon implements a standards-based, college-preparatory curriculum giving the staff flexibility to adapt instructional strategies in order to meet the needs of the students. The curriculum is based on a model developed and successfully implemented by Charter Management Organization (CMO), Concept Schools. All parts of the curriculum are fully aligned with State Learning Standards.

The vast majority of courses offered in Horizon Science Academy of Lorain high school program have a “College Preparatory” and an “Honors” version. College Preparatory classes meet the State Learning Standards that empower students for higher education. Honors classes address the same standards but go deeper into the content, at a much faster pace, and have higher expectations for both the quality and quantity of student work. In short, the Honors classes are more rigorous and push student learning above and beyond grade-level. They are designed for students who love learning and seek admission to elite colleges and universities.

Teachers in the Honors programs are committed to challenging students to adequately prepare them for college-level course work. As Honors level courses are more rigorous than regular courses, classes may require additional reading, research, essays and projects. Teachers cover curriculum at a faster pace and in greater depth while incorporating more complex analysis and additional sources.

IF YOU’RE THINKING OF APPLYING

Students in Honors courses are expected to have the following characteristics:

- High academic achievement and intellectual ability.
- Self-motivation and self-discipline.
- Good organizational skills.
- Excellent written and spoken expression.
- An avid interest in reading different types of text.
- An ability to work independently and collaboratively.
- Remain on task in class with little to no disruption.
- Good attendance.



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- Sound maturity

HONORS EXPECTATIONS

Upon acceptance into the Honors program, students are expected to:

- Maintain A/B grades in all Honors courses in both semesters.
- Remain in the course(s) for the duration of the year.
- Maintain high standards of academic integrity.
- Be in class every day. Excessive absences are grounds for removal from the course.
- The student commits to completing any summer work. Summer work may include the reading of books, journals, etc, writing assignments, projects, meeting with the course teacher, etc. All summer work will be available on the school’s webpage and the student must check the webpage to ensure he or she is fully aware of all announcements regarding summer work for an Honors course.

HONORS PROGRAM UNDERSTANDINGS

- Student success is the ultimate goal, but students not succeeding in an Honors class will be handled on an individual basis.
- The student commits to upholding the school’s Honor Code regarding plagiarism, cheating, submitting work he or she did not complete, etc. If the student is found to have violated the Honors code in any way, then the student may be dropped from any Honors course without honors credit.
- Students who have excessive tardies, absences, or discipline issues will be dropped from the course and placed in the college prep level of the course.

HONORS PLACEMENT POLICY

For a student to be in the Honors program they must demonstrate a strong command of Ohio’s Learning Standards per subject area. A student at this level has a superior ability to perform well beyond grade level expectations.

All criteria are required to be placed in an honors level course. Students who want the challenge of an Honors course must satisfy all three requirements to earn admission:

1. Grade of A or B in specific content area from the previous year (Student with a “C” may be considered with Advanced score on the State Test)
2. Accelerated/Advanced score on Ohio State Test from Previous Year or Qualifying score on the Accuplacer Test in specific content area
3. Completed Recommendation Form from content specific teacher

*8th grade ELA State Test Scores will be considered for 9th grade S.S. Honors

*8th grade State Science Test will be considered for 9th Science Honors Placement

*Current students in high school (entering 10th or Higher) who take regular class with no state test for evaluation, and want to be in honors the following year have to qualify based on A in overall class, A on Midterm and A on Final and completion of Summer Assignment for Honors

*For History courses, English test scores will be considered

*Application window for students applying for Honors will be in February/March

*Once in honors classes, students who receive A’s or B’s in a subject area may continue on the honors path