

UME High School Honors Program: Guide for Scholars

Embedded Honors Courses:

English I	Algebra I	World Geography	Biology	Economics
English II	Geometry	World History	Chemistry	
English III	Algebra II	US History	Physics	
English IV	Statistics	Government	Anatomy & Physiology	

Rationale:

In an effort to provide the highest quality program within an embedded framework, the honors content and requirements have been made more uniform and standardized from course-to-course and year-to-year. Scholars who qualify to take the honors version of the above core classes will receive a grade point that is weighted more heavily.

Eligibility:

Honors applications with teacher recommendations must be filled out and turned in by the end of the spring semester for the following fall. Scholars will qualify for honors based on their grade average from the previous year in the course to which they are applying (must have an 85 or above), teacher recommendation, and good standing with the Academy.

Goal:

The goal of the honors program is for scholars to go deeper into the field of study, think critically, and produce something of value that allows them some latitude to exercise creativity of thought and presentation.

Curriculum:

Each honors class will have one outside reading assigned per semester. This assigned reading will not vary from teacher-to-teacher, but rather from course-to-course. Therefore, everyone taking honors Algebra II will have the same outside reading regardless of the teacher. The reading will be in the vein of classic literature or scholarly contemporary non-fiction.

Product:

Scholars will be required to do a project, paper or presentation at the mid-point of the semester and near the end of the semester which is intended to demonstrate their engagement with the literature, comprehension, and processing of it. The final project, paper, or presentation should take it a step further and demonstrate creativity and critical thinking that goes beyond a sort of “report” on the literature. A quiz or test over the literature is not a component of the honors program and is not a suitable assessment for this purpose. Honors reading and work will be done outside of class unless the teacher states otherwise.

Each honors product will be counted in the gradebook as two major grades. In addition, honors scholars will not be required to take mid-term exams. However, they will be required to take the fall semester exam. They will be eligible for exemption from the spring semester exam if they have an “A” average – just like the non-honors scholars.

Due Dates:

Because honors scholars could potentially be in 4 honors classes per semester, due dates will be staggered between subject areas. Below is an example of what the due date calendar may look like.

Fall

Social Studies & Science

Mid-Point Product Due:

Week of Oct. 2nd – 6th

End-of-Semester Product Due:

Week of Nov. 13th – 17th

Math & English

Mid-Point Product Due:

Week of Oct. 10th-13th

End-of-Semester Product Due:

Week of Nov. 27th- Dec. 1st

Spring

Social Studies & Science

Mid-Point Product Due:

Week of Feb. 26th – Mar. 2nd

End-of-Semester Product Due:

Week of Apr. 23rd – 27th

Math & English

Mid-Point Product Due:

Week of Mar. 5th – 9th

End-of-Semester Product Due:

Week of Apr. 30th – May 4th