

Procedures for Honors Level Coursework - DRAFT

Philosophy & Description

Seattle Public Schools believes that we can prepare every student for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and the acquisition of knowledge as early as possible. Addressed effectively, an honors curriculum for students will provide a powerful opportunity to help all students acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning and ensures educational and racially equitable outcomes.

As a part of our academic program offerings and a Multi-Tiered System of Support, SPS offers diverse and integrated course options for our students. Our programs support all learners and ensure equitable access to a robust high-quality education. Therefore, Honors, like all other academic offerings, is grounded in standards-based curriculum with strong targeted instruction and is open to all students in grades 6-12.

SPS will provide advanced level coursework, which provides the opportunity for a student to study a content in more depth, both in content and analysis. Honors-level coursework is an option to meet individual student needs based on a differentiated instructional model.

Honors courses will

- Encourage students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world
- Develop a deeper understanding of learning skills and apply them in meaningful contexts
- Integrate conceptual learning from multiple disciplines
- Inquire into compelling issues, ideas and challenges by creating products or explaining phenomena
- Reflect on and communicate their understanding of race, equity, and social justice issues locally and worldwide
- Embed inquiry into ideas, issues and challenges in order to explain or create
- Build students' capacity to communicate effectively and responsibly with a range of audiences.

The Seattle School Board recognizes that students need the opportunity to engage in differentiated & challenging learning opportunities. The following procedures describe the district's proposed plan for implementing honors level opportunities for all students.

Logistical Guidance:

- 1- Students select core courses provided by the school (Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies).
- 2- Honors coursework is embedded and differentiated within the classroom with multiple opportunities for student to show their depth of knowledge.
- 3- Students complete an end-of-course exam, oral presentation, portfolio or culminating project offered by the teacher.
- 4- Students earn the honors designation by successfully completing the opportunities provided.