



# Kittatinny Regional High School

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2005 Governor's School of Excellence



March, 2014

Dear Parent /Guardian:

Seventh graders at Kittatinny will soon be scheduling for classes next year. Students who are eligible may be placed in an eighth grade honors section for English/Lit Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The practice of using a scoring rubric to determine the correct placement of students into any of the honors courses will continue this year. Please be aware of the specific criteria for placement into an 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors course.

## **8<sup>th</sup> grade English/Lit. Reading and Social Studies**

The rubric consists of five items, all which must be met by seventh grade students *in both the Literature/Reading and the English courses* to be recommended by their teachers for the Honors program. The same rubric is used for acceptance into 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Social Studies. Please note that students do not need to be accepted into the Honor English/Lit. Reading program in order to be accepted into 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Social Studies. The rubric is as follows:

1. A minimum grade of 93/100 at the end of MP3.
2. A writing sample score (based on the NJASK guidelines.)
3. A minimum grade of 95/100 on homework at the end of MP3.
4. A class participation minimum grade of an 85/100.
5. A minimum score of a 200 on the current year's NJASK.

All seventh grade students will be administered a writing sample NJASK practice on March 27 during the school day. The NJASK rubric will be used to score the writing sample and will be used to determine placement into honors English/Lit. Reading and honors Social Studies.

## **8<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics**

During the teacher recommendation process, the Honors Math Rubric is used to help place students appropriately. The Math Rubric consists of four items which must be met by seventh grade students to be recommended by their teachers for the Honors 8Math Class. The rubric is as follows:

1. A minimum grade of 93/100 at the end of MP3.
2. A minimum grade of 95/100 on homework at the end of MP3.
3. A teacher rated class participation minimum grade of an 85/100.
4. A minimum score of a 200 on the current year's NJASK.

## **8<sup>th</sup> grade Science**

1. A minimum grade of 93/100 at the end of MP3.
2. A minimum grade of 95/100 on homework at the end of MP3.
3. A teacher rated class participation minimum grade of an 85/100.

For all honors courses, the student must maintain the minimum grades listed above for their final grade for the year and the final homework grade average.

Principal Christian Angelillo  
and the Kittatinny Administrative Team

**Note: Please review the most frequently asked questions listed on page 2 of this letter**

*Kittatinny Regional Board of Education*  
*"Imparting Knowledge That Works for Our Children" - Sussex County's First Star School*

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q: What if my son/daughter only meets the criteria for English but not Lit. Reading? Can they still go into honors English as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader?
- A: No. A student being accepted into 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors English and honors Lit. Reading must meet the criteria for both courses and receive the recommendation by both of their 7<sup>th</sup> grade English and Lit. Reading teachers to be eligible.
- Q: Can my son/daughter be in honors Social Studies without going into honors English/Lit. Reading?
- A: Yes. A student may be recommended for 8<sup>th</sup> grade honors Social Studies and not the honors English program.
- Q: Can a student schedule for honors English/Lit. Reading or honors Social Studies without completing the written essay?
- A: No. All students must complete the written essay which is administered in March before the end of MP3.
- Q: Is there a parental waiver into honors?
- A: No. There is no parental waiver process.
- Q: Is there an administrative appeal process?
- A: Yes. Administrative appeals may be made to the junior high guidance counselor and department supervisor if criteria in one area of the scoring rubric falls within one point of the target cut scores for honors. Scores are used based on grades at the end of MP3.
- Q: Do I have to take the assessment if I am already in honors/enrichment classes?
- A: Yes. All students currently enrolled in an honors course must take the appropriate assessment if they plan to continue in the honors program in subsequent years.
- Q: Who administers and grades the written essay?
- A: Seventh grade teachers will be administering the NJASK practice test which includes the essay based on the scoring rubric used during the NJASK.
- Q: Is there a probationary period for students?
- A: Yes. Students are expected to complete assigned summer assignments prior to the first day of school. Students who do not complete it by the due date are rescheduled for a regular class. Students must also satisfactorily complete the first marking period with an 80 percent minimum at the midpoint and end of the first marking period. Students may be recommended by their teacher to reschedule into a regular class at that time if they do not meet the minimum score.