

Q: Will students be graded using a traditional scale or on the standards/competencies?

A: Students will be graded using a traditional scale. Conversations on standards/competency grading are in the early stages and will take a couple of years to implement if PMHS goes that direction.

Q: Will teachers communicate with parents regarding the honors option?

A: Yes. The teacher and parent will collaborate regarding expectations for striving for the honors option. PMHS views this as a partnership that requires 2-way communication.

Q: What professional development have teachers reviewed regarding embedded honors?

A: For the past 2 years, faculty and staff have worked with an outside consultant to provide training in developing a curriculum in an embedded honors approach to teaching and learning. Additionally, teachers have been provided time to create a scope and sequence, rubrics, and assessments for each grade 9 core course and some electives.

Q: Are all teachers on board with this shift?

A: Change can be difficult for some, but change is necessary in order to improve. Most are, but there is still some hesitation on the part of some. PMHS will continue to offer professional development and guidance as we shift to an embedded honors approach to teaching and learning.

Q: Will there be worse behaviors in an Embedded Honors class with all the groups now being mixed?

A: When a high-quality, enriched curriculum is provided to all students, the effect is to benefit both high-achieving and low-achieving students. By engaging all students, behaviors tend to be reduced. Effective classroom management, differentiated instruction, and clear expectations are crucial to ensuring that all students benefit from such an approach to teaching and learning. As a result, behaviors tend to be better.

Q: What happens if a student gets the Embedded Honors designation in one quarter but does not in another quarter?

A: Honors designation is determined by the body of work for the entire course, not just 1 quarter. Students have the ability to reassess following the reassessment procedures.

Q: Who decides if a student can/cannot pursue the Embedded Honors option in a class?

A: All students have the opportunity to pursue the Embedded Honors option. Students will not be penalized for trying but not succeeding.

Q: How will Embedded Honors impact dual enrollment and AP courses?

A: Students can still enroll in dual enrollment and AP courses. The embedded honors approach provides all students with the opportunity to enroll in these types of courses.