

April 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Registration for rising 7th and 8th graders is upon us! During the month of April, students will select the courses they wish to take for the 2023-2024 school year at their respective middle school. Students need to make choices for both Math and ELA courses. Students will also submit their requests for their elective courses. Our middle school counselors will handle the registration process during the school day with all our rising 7th and 8th grade students.

As part of this process, students will need to select between regular and honors courses in Math and ELA. We offer **open enrollment** to allow any student who wishes to take an honors course to do so. Students will need to select a regular or honors course for both Math and ELA during April registration. Selecting an honors course is a **yearlong commitment**, so families should be certain before requesting this course. Please read below to learn more about the rigor and commitment level that students and parents should expect in an honors course.

General Honors Course Expectations

Students in an honors course (Math or ELA) are expected to be internally motivated to study the content and be willing to dig deeper into the course content, at a faster pace. Honors courses are not “more work”, but similar work done with a higher level of rigor and thinking. Students will be expected to be independent learners and complete tasks with less step-by-step direction from their teacher.

ELA Grade 7 Honors and ELA Grade 8 Honors

All ELA classrooms, both honors and regular, use a variety of texts to plan for high quality instruction. All students are working toward the same goal: the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively, read and think critically, and develop their creativity. At the middle school level, honors ELA courses cover the same content and skills as regular courses, but at a faster pace and with more challenging work. Students are expected to think critically, work independently, and will apply their skills in new ways. Honors courses may provide more opportunity for students to investigate literature and other texts on their own or at a higher complexity than in a regular course.

Math Grade 7 Honors

Math Grade 7 Honors is an advanced middle school level course that emphasizes a deeper processing of 7th grade math standards and also includes approximately half of the 8th grade math standards. Upon successful completion, students will be able to enroll in NC Math 1 in 8th grade. Students can expect regularly assigned homework, collaboration, and a faster paced class. Honors level courses also focus on a more conceptual understanding of math, versus just solving for a solution.

NC Math 1 (for 8th Graders)

Middle school students may take NC Math 1, which is a high school level math course. This course emphasizes linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Upon successful completion, students will receive high school credit for the course. Students can expect regularly assigned homework and a faster paced class. Students must take the NC Math 1 End of Course exam. **This exam will count as 20% of the student's final grade and will appear on their high school transcript.** Students who took Math Grade 7 Honors are recommended to continue their advanced math studies in this course. Students who took regular Math Grade 7 are eligible to take this course, but should be willing to put in extra work because this course presumes students have already learned the majority of the Math Grade 8 standards.

Please discuss with your student if a regular or honors course is best suited to their academic interests and needs. Students will select between regular and honors courses in PowerSchool during April registration. We want both students and families to be informed before making this choice.

Because honors courses are a yearlong commitment that may require extensive at-home support, students who select an honors course during PowerSchool registration must also have a parent or guardian confirm this selection for additional verification through a Google Form. If you wish your student to take an honors course, you must also complete the appropriate form below.

- If your child will be in **7th grade** for the 2023–2024 school year then you will need to complete [this form](#). This form needs to be completed before May 3, 2023.
- If your child will be in **8th grade** for the 2023–2024 school year then you will need to complete [this form](#). This form needs to be completed before April 14, 2023.