8th Grade English Language Arts Honors Credit

Students may earn 8th Grade English Language Arts Honors credit on their report cards in a given semester by earning “Honors Points,” which are awarded for pre-determined activities (described below) that require students to:

a) challenge themselves in accelerated learning tasks, b) engage in a variety of beneficial enrichment activities, and/or c) perform at an exemplary level on major course assessments.

To be eligible for Honors credit in a given semester, students must:

- Earn a total of 30 Honors Points -and-
- Earn at least the minimum number of Honors Points designated in each performance strand below

In some cases, there are a maximum number of points that may be earned for a particular recurring behavior in a single semester. Teachers also have the flexibility to develop additional Honors Point activities not represented below as they customize instruction to meet the individual needs of their specific students.

Honors Points shall not have a direct impact on a student’s grade within a given course; they are used entirely to account for a student’s eligibility towards earning Honors credit.

ELA Honors Performance Strands

- **Reading (6+ Pts Needed)**
  - Read an advanced-level text as an in-class Literacy Group reading option (2 Pts)
  - Read an advanced-level text as a supplement to an in-class, on-level reading assignment (1-2 Pts)
  - Read an advanced-level text for an independent reading assignment (1 Pt [*4 Pts MAX])
  - Perform at the Exemplary level on a District Reading Assessment (1 Pt)

- **Writing (8+ Pts Needed)**
  - Revise a major writing assignment to an Exemplary level (1 Pt)
  - Incorporate supplemental research into a major writing assignment (1 Pt)
  - Submit a piece of writing to an authentic publication (2 Pts [*6 Pts MAX])
  - Perform at the Exemplary level on a District Writing Assessment (1 Pt)
  - Participate in a semester-long independent research project proctored intermittently in-class by Gifted Education faculty (6 Pts)

- **Collaboration (4+ Pts Needed)**
  - Participate in-class in supplemental, student-led discussions about course topics (1 Pt)
  - Participate outside-of-class [i.e. during RTI Period, Before/After-School Events, etc.] in supplemental, student-led discussions about course topics (1 Pt)
  - Participate online [using Blackboard Discussion Forums] in supplemental, student-led discussions about course topics (1 Pt)
  - Perform at the Exemplary level on a District Speaking/Listening Assessment (1 Pt)

- **Language Development (4+ Pts Needed)**
  - Maintain a New Vocabulary Acquisition Journal throughout the semester (2 Pts)
  - Complete successfully an online ACT Vocabulary Tutorial [using Blackboard] (2 Pts)
  - Complete successfully an online ACT English Grammar Tutorial [using Blackboard] (2 Pts)
  - Perform at the Exemplary level on a District Language Assessment (1 Pt)
  - Perform at the Exemplary level on a District Derivational Vocabulary Assessment (1 Pt)

- **Reflection (4+ Pts Needed)**
  - Maintain a record of Honors Points you have earned throughout the semester (1 Pt [*REQUIRED!])
  - Maintain a portfolio of significant papers/projects created throughout the semester (1 Pt)
  - Maintain a reading log of all significant texts read throughout the semester (1 Pt)
  - Maintain a periodic Language Arts Growth reflective journal throughout the semester (2 Pts)
  - Discuss your growth as a Language Arts learner at a conference with your teacher/parents (2 Pts)