Subject: 8th Grade English Honors Credit

Dear Student/Parent(s),

As you prepare for the upcoming school year, I want to let you know about an exciting opportunity in which students may participate within their 8th grade English course.

Students who desire to enrich their learning by stretching themselves beyond the basic requirements of the 8th grade English curriculum are encouraged to contract for Honors credit with their teacher. Students may earn “Honors Points” in the areas of Reading, Writing, Collaboration, Language Development, and Reflection by challenging themselves in accelerated learning tasks, engaging in a variety of beneficial enrichment activities, or performing at an exemplary level on major course assessments. For example, students may earn Honors Points by…

- Reading and discussing texts that are written at a high school or college reading level
- Revising major writing assignments until earning an Exemplary score
- Conducting independent and/or small group research on topics related to classroom study
- Keeping a portfolio of work and personal reflections illustrating the student’s growth as a learner

These are just a few of the ways that students will have the opportunity to “sample” Honors-level work in a low-risk, flexible fashion throughout the year. Students will be encouraged to periodically participate in student-led conferences with their teacher (and when possible, parents) to discuss their progress towards meeting the demands of the Honors contract. Students who successfully meet the requirements of the Honors contract each semester will earn Honors recognition on their transcript and at the end-of-the-year awards ceremony.

If you think that Honors contracting is an option you (or your student) might like to pursue, I highly encourage you to read through the specific contract on the other side of this letter. If you feel you are ready to challenge yourself in this way, please let your teacher know, who will begin coaching you as you work towards this goal. Of course, you also have the opportunity to begin earning Honors Points at any point during the upcoming school year. Your teacher and your middle school counseling staff are great resources for helping you determine when you are ready to stretch yourself in this manner, especially as you begin to look ahead at the types of course you want to take in high school.

Thanks for considering this exciting opportunity to enrich your learning – and have a great year!!

Sincerely,

Nick Kremer
Coordinator of Language Arts 6-12
Coordinator of Social Studies K-12
Columbia Public Schools