



Academic Middle School Honors Policy

It is the desire of WCA to afford eligible students opportunities based upon individual scholastic ability and interest to receive placement in honors level classes when available. As such, the following will operate in consort with other academic policies of the Academy and have only the special provisions noted herein applied to honors eligibility and retention in the Academic Honors Program.

1. To become eligible students must score a minimum of 8 points on the Honors Placement Rubric. The rubric consists of the following categories of assessment for eligibility:
 - a. Grade average in applicable course(s) of study for most recently completed 3 quarters (3 points possible)
 - b. Total GPA all core courses (Math, Language, History, Science and Bible) for most recently completed 3 quarters (3 points possible)
 - c. Grade Level Equivalency from most recently completed test battery (3 points possible)
 - d. Teacher recommendation(s) (3 points possible)
 - Reasoning for selecting most recently completed 3 quarters is to provide a reliable, estimated student census for any upcoming school year which will facilitate the ordering of books, preparation and dispersal of supply lists for special course needs, and to provide adequate time for guidance counseling to occur when available.
 - Reasoning for aggregate GPA of all graded courses is that regardless of special interests a student may have for particular courses of study, at the middle school level there exists a reasonable expectation that students will maintain a level of performance in all areas of study for which honors and awards are already calculated [Honor Roll, Principal's List, etc.]
 - Reasoning behind equal split of all available points in the rubric categories is to assure that not any single category can either negatively or positively impact the student opportunity for honors selection.
2. Student's parents must sign a statement allowing their student to participate if eligible, and the statement must be on file with the Academy before books and materials for the honors level course(s) are ordered or distributed to the student.
 - a. New students to WCA may be entered into the Honors/Advanced Placement Program with a New Student Waiver of Teacher Recommendation and a minimum score in the data-driven section of the Placement Rubric of 6.

3. Student must maintain at least a C- average in honors level course of study or be placed on Academic Probation and have an approved Academic Improvement Program on file.
4. Parents may opt at anytime during the school year to have their student removed from honors level courses by submitting in writing a Level Change Request to: Headmaster, Westside Christian Academy, 554 Pinewood Road, Sumter, South Carolina, 29154. Student will have schedule adjusted accordingly and will be placed in next lower level course within three days of receipt of such in hand by the Academy. *See the following*
 - a. Student will have grade earned to date of level change transferred to the new class(es) grade book for year's end calculation and course credit.
 - b. A fee of \$125.00 will be required to cover the cost of replacement books and supplies for the level change class(es).**
 - c. Fee must be paid at the time Level Change Request is submitted to WCA.
 - d. Student must relinquish all books from Honors/Advanced Placement before receiving replacement books.
5. The following standards define what Westside Christian Academy deems an honor student:
 - Student will possess the qualities of honor cloaked in humility as outlined in Philippians 2:3-15;
 - Student is a self-starter who is interested in the subject matter, desires to do a good job, and grades are not their primary motivation for learning;
 - Student is consistent in attendance;
 - Student does all assigned work and turns assignments in on time;
 - Student is organized, and manages time and materials well;
 - Student will independently explore, read or gather information to meet and often exceed the requirements of a lesson, project or event for which they have academic responsibility;
 - Student takes pride in their work and endeavors to present all work with regard to its overall quality, completeness, accuracy and legibility, often displaying innovative, imaginative or thoughtfully complex depth;
 - Student is effective as a communicator, both in writing and orally;
 - Student works well independently and is additionally an asset to a group when assigned as a contributing member of that group;
 - Student responds well to constructive guidance, and is able to pose questions in such a way as to ask the questions necessary to help in focusing such guidance;
 - Student demonstrates the maturity to be able to show mastery over basic skills, an ability to form workable problem-solving strategies, and can be counted on to peer mentor others without complete reliance upon teacher-available assistance;
 - Student demonstrates responsible behavior and accepts quickly the consequences of his/her actions, not blaming others or making excuses for uncharacteristic behaviors;
 - Student affords others the opportunity to be heard and welcomes the input of others both in total classroom settings and small groups;
 - Student can be counted on to provide leadership in a group without being called upon to do so, or will do so without reluctance when asked;
 - Student sincerely desires to be a WCA honors level student.