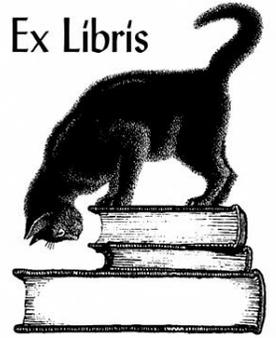


Are You Ready For Honors?

Each year Torrance Unified School District offers 8th grade students the opportunity to take classes at the local high school as a way to advance in various subject areas. This year students can choose from Biology 1 Honors, Geometry Honors (if qualified), Japanese 1, French 1, and Korean 1. Although these classes are quite demanding, most students who attend these classes are successful. This questionnaire is designed to help students and their parents decide whether these classes are appropriate to take. Please answer the questions honestly and discuss the results with your parents. The more informed your decision is, the more successful you will be.

Ex Libris



We interviewed students currently in these honors classes and they suggested these questions:

- ☞ Are you **INTERESTED** in this subject?
- ☞ Do you **ALWAYS** complete all your homework and turn it in **ON TIME**?
- ☞ Do you have **GOOD STUDY HABITS**—find time each day to study even if you don't necessarily have homework?
- ☞ Are you **MOTIVATED** by a challenge and do you have the **PERSEVERANCE** to complete a task even if it is very difficult?
- ☞ Do you take **RESPONSIBILITY** for your work—go above and beyond what's expected, participate in class, pay close attention in class?
- ☞ When problems arise, do you **SEEK HELP** from others?
- ☞ Are you **SUCCESSFUL** in all of your classes, even those that seem less interesting?

Look carefully at the key words here and rate yourself. If you can honestly answer yes to each question then you are probably well suited to enter this program. If you answered "maybe" or "no" to some of these questions, you may wish to wait a year and work on those habits to improve them and then apply for these classes as a ninth grade student.

What's *your* motivation for taking these accelerated classes?

The reason you are interested in taking these classes may give you an indication whether this is a good decision for you. As you look through this list compiled by recent students in the program, write down your own motivation for taking these classes and be honest with yourself.

- ☞ I wanted a challenge
- ☞ My friends are taking it
- ☞ Looks good on my transcript
- ☞ My parents told me to take it
- ☞ Friends or siblings told me it was worth the effort
- ☞ I was bribed
- ☞ My middle school teacher encouraged me
- ☞ Taking honors classes helps you to get into a college
- ☞ I heard there were some fun projects

Remember that each student has individual strengths and weaknesses. Several of these reasons are not based on student interest or ability and may reflect that you are not quite ready for these courses. Please don't rank yourself against others. You are the person who will attend the class. You must complete the assignments and you alone will take the tests.

Finally, a few sage words from current students regarding what they wished they had known when they were signing up for classes last year.

I wish I had known:

- ☞ That the tests were so difficult
- ☞ That there was so much homework and it was going to be so time consuming.
- ☞ What the content of the course was.
- ☞ That there would be a need for a change in my study habits.
- ☞ That the information you learn must be applied rather than memorized.

We hope you spend some time thinking and considering what would be best for you.

Courses:

- Student may take two courses from the following choices: Japanese 1, Korean 1, French 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 2 Honors, Geometry Honors, and Biology 1 Honors.
- Summer school Algebra 1 does **NOT** prepare students for Geometry Honors

QUESTIONS?

If you have further questions about the program in general contact:

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