



## Desert Ridge Junior High Honors Program

Desert Ridge Jr High Honors courses are designed and implemented to demand more challenging involvement on the part of students. The coursework is significantly more rigorous than their standard course counterpart and provides students multiple opportunities to take greater ownership of their learning. Honors courses are distinguished by differences in the quality and composition of their coursework, not by the quantity of the work required. Honors courses are designed for students who have demonstrated a high level of interest and academic achievement in a given subject area. Students and parents should understand that Honors courses are more demanding and have requirements beyond those of standard, grade-level courses.

### Honors Courses:

- Contain additional depth and breadth of content
- Are taught at a more rapid pace
- Are aligned to subject-area state standards
- Often integrate two or more different content areas
- Are inquiry-based
- Require content application through research
- Emphasize critical and reflective thinking

### Indicators of Honors Level Student Readiness:

- Demonstrates interest and curiosity in the subject area.
- Previous attainment of prerequisite skills and vocabulary in the subject area.
- Motivation remains high in face of challenges. (High frustration threshold.)
- Reads above grade-level
- Self-motivated, well-organized, and apt to work independently for extended periods.
- Demonstrates ability to self-advocate, seeking help and guidance when needed.
- Consistently completes and submits assignments on time.
- Actively participates in class activities and discussions with appropriate peer interactions.
- Extends learning by voluntarily going beyond the parameters of the assignment.
- Enjoys learning, making connections between subjects and with the larger world.

The guiding principles of our Honors Program are based on the expectation that all students can perform at rigorous academic levels, and that students should be continuously challenged to expand their knowledge and skills to the next level. The emphasis with Honors courses is that students and parents make the commitment to the additional effort required.

**★It is the expectation that students who enroll in an Honors course must complete the semester in the level in which they enroll. Based on instructional best practice and the limitations of the master schedule, struggling students will not be permitted to drop an Honors course mid-term. ★**

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the above statements and, if eligible for participation in an Honors course, are committing to the rigor of an Honors course for the full term.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Desert Ridge Junior High  
Honors Program  
2024/2025

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate below for which course(s) your student is seeking Honors consideration:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Honors English 8  
\_\_\_\_\_ Honors History and Social Sciences 8 (Must be co-enrolled in Honors English 8)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Honors Algebra I (\*Please note this course grade will be documented on student's HS transcript.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Honors Science 8

Placement in the Honors program is based on priority and space availability.



To be considered for Honors placement at DRJHS, any or all of the following may be used to consider eligibility:

**Honors English 8 / Honors History and Social Sciences 8**

- 6th grade AzMERIT ELA (Scale Score Range: 2597---2641)
- 7th grade District Level Assessment Performance Level = **Highly Proficient** EOY Assessment
- 7th grade Report Card ( $\geq 3.5$  Rolling Cumulative G.P.A.)

**Honors Algebra I and Honors Science 8**

- 6th grade AzMERIT Math (Scale Score Range: 3663---3722)
- 7th grade District Level Assessment Performance Level = **Highly Proficient** EOY Assessment
- 8th grade District Level Assessment Performance Level = **Proficient or Highly Proficient** EOY Assessment
- 7th grade Report Card ( $\geq 3.5$  Rolling Cumulative G.P.A.)

★Eligibility and course placement decisions will be communicated by mail.

*Placement concerns are directed to the school principal.*