

Raymond High School

Expanding Honors Options



WHAT IS HONORS?



A series of learning activities and assignments that require a student to delve more deeply into methodology, structure, and/or theory, address more sophisticated questions, and satisfies more rigorous standards.

Academic content is either broader in scope or deeper in examination than in a comparable assignment.

WHY?



- ☛ **Increase student opportunities**
- ☛ **Student ownership of learning**
- ☛ **Scheduling conflicts** (SST or 'singleton' courses)
- ☛ **Efficiency; class size guidelines**

BENEFITS

- Challenges & supports all learners to *achieve more* based on their ability, interests and motivation
- Increases the number of students who can choose to participate in honors level work
- Fosters a culture of high achievement
- Clearly delineates how honors work is more rigorous than standard assignments
- Provides more flexibility in the master schedule

CHALLENGES



- Teachers must have a very clear plan for standard, rigorous course assignments in order to plan and effectively differentiate higher level activities and assignments for honors options
- Heterogeneous grouping requires teachers to adjust their approaches in the classroom to better meet the needs of all (diverse) learners

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

- **Full implementation**
 - Students can contract for an Honors Option in any class
- **Partial implementation**
 - An Honors Option contract is offered in only specific content areas
- **Targeted implementation**
 - Honors Option contracts are offered only for specific classes
- **Elective implementation**
 - Honors Option contracts are offered only for electives

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Offer the Honors Option for **upper level elective courses** that have not previously had Honors sections at RHS.

2. Offer the Honors Option **for students** in classes that do typically have an Honors level at RHS but:
 - a. The student cannot fit the the Honors course into his or her schedule OR
 - b. No Honors section is available at the time due to insufficient numbers of students registered