

Policy #

Date of 2nd Reading: 9/25/17

Policy Type:

SIS Standards: 8.1B

**Wurtland Middle School**  
**School Based Decision Making Council**  
**Honors Placement Policy**

**Rationale**

The intent of this policy is to determine, accurately and fairly, student placement in Math and English Language Arts classes designated as “Honors”. Using several different data points and multiple sources collected over the course of a year, the goal is to identify objectively students who would benefit from an accelerated curriculum in order to meet their academic needs. It is hoped, through the implementation of this policy, a fair and equitable system will emerge. The “Honors” label will only be placed on the Math and ELA courses, however in Science and Social Studies the groups will be created and determined by Science and Reading Universal Screener scores with priority given to the Honors classes. If WMS enrollment increases to the extent that additional faculty will be allocated, that would allow for more schedule flexibility and we can revise this policy at that time.

**Criteria**

- Students would be identified for a class offering an accelerated instructional approach designated as “Honors” in Math, or ELA based on their average three Universal Screener Scores from the previous year in Math and Reading.
- State Assessment data can be used in September as an additional data point to check for placement accuracy.
- The placement criterion will be communicated to parents in May for the next school year.
- All assessments will be administered using prescribed testing procedures.
- Students will be placed in rank order based on the Screener score. In case of a tie for the final spots overall GPA will be the tie breaker.
- Placement in Math

8 <sup>th</sup> grade	An average Universal Screener score at or above the identified Proficient or Distinguished benchmark for the Spring administration.
7 <sup>th</sup> grade	An average Universal Screener score at or above the identified Proficient or Distinguished benchmark for the Spring administration.
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	An average Universal Screener score at or above the identified Proficient or Distinguished benchmark for the Spring administration.

- Placement for English Language Arts

8 <sup>th</sup> grade	An average Universal Screener score at or above the identified Proficient or Distinguished benchmark for the Spring administration.
7 <sup>th</sup> grade	An average Universal Screener score at or above the identified Proficient or Distinguished benchmark for the Spring administration.
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	An average Universal Screener score at or above the identified Proficient or Distinguished benchmark for the Spring administration.

If a student is not initially placed in the Honors section due to not meeting the above criteria, this can be re-evaluated at the midterm and at the end of the first 9 weeks or after state assessments have been returned. In order for a student to be placed in an Honors course at this time there must first be room available in the course that keeps us under our allocated teacher to student ratio and they must meet all of the following criteria:

- 95% or higher in the current course
- Assessment data reflects a Distinguished or Proficient in the subject of concern.
- Fall Universal Screener data reports that they are at the Proficient level or higher
- Student must have 93% or higher attendance

If a student is initially placed in the Honors class they may be removed and placed in a lower placement if the following occur.

- A class average of less than 70%
- School attendance of 93% or less

No student will be placed in an Honors class after the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks unless they are a new student who meets the initial placement criteria and there is room available in the course. Honors placement will be re-evaluated yearly.