

AuSable Valley Central School District
1490 Rt. 9N
Clintonville, NY 12924

May 5, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child has been identified for achievement and the potential for success in the Honors Program for the 2010-11 school year. He/she has been **recommended** for the Honors course(s) highlighted on the enclosed Honors Program Application.

Recommended A1-tracked students who have maintained an overall average of 89 or higher at the end of the 3rd quarter in a core academic class are invited to apply for the corresponding Honors class. However, only those students who have met the Honors criteria and achieved an overall average of 90 or higher for a final average will be placed in that Honors class for next year. **Please note that to be eligible for Algebra Honors, 7th graders must have a 93 average since they are being accelerated. Also note that because Honors courses are rigorous, students who are already in the Honors program must maintain an 88 average to remain in the program for the following year.**

The Honors curriculum will be challenging. The expectations of our students in these classes will be demanding. In addition to the high academic requirements, there will be correspondingly high expectations in attendance, behavior, attitude, responsibility, and class effort. **Honors teachers will meet periodically to discuss each student's progress in these areas, and if a student is not meeting the expectations of the Honors program, he/she may lose the Honors designation for that particular course.**

The challenge of our Honors courses will effectively prepare our students for the rigor of our College Advanced Program (CAP) offered through Clinton Community College. A significant number of our graduating seniors each year enter college with advanced standing because of our CAP program, which now totals 59 credit hours of college study in 7 different disciplines. The Honors courses and CAP courses are positive additions on transcripts, and colleges consider this when accepting students at their institutions.

There are many other advantages to being in the Honors program. Honors students are given some privileges such as an Honors Pass and free swim. The June Honors Barbecue/Field Day has become a tradition and a relaxing, fun-filled reward.

Please read the enclosures on "Academic Honesty" and "How Much is too Much?" with your child. If he/she wishes to participate, please complete the enclosed application and essay and return to Ms. Perrin by June 3, 2010. **If this deadline is not met, students will not be accepted into the Honors program for the upcoming school year.** Please note that students need only write the essay once for initial acceptance into the program; however, the accepted course list needs to be signed and returned by the deadline **every** year.

In June, please check your child's final report card to see if he/she meets the 90 overall average. If all Honors requirements have been met, you can expect that he/she will be placed in the Honors program.

*Sincerely,
The Honors Committee*

HONORS CRITERIA

Please read the following criteria for the Honors Program. If you have any questions, you may contact Ms. Perrin or your son's/daughter's guidance counselor at 834-2800.

Expectations:

Honors students are expected to possess the skills/traits necessary to be successful in an Honors course. The Honors courses are not geared to teach these skills yet rather to enhance the current curriculum and challenge students. These expectations include the following: Maturity, Organizational Skills, Motivation, Responsibility, Academic Ability and Time Management. **(Please closely review the enclosed handout with your child.)**

Responsibility:

Students are expected to exhibit academic responsibility, responsibility with meeting deadlines for the Honors program and their Honors classes, and responsibility with their *Honors pass (see note below).

Behavior:

Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Students who receive disciplinary referrals will incur consequences including but not limited to removal of the Honors pass, loss of Honors privileges for the year, and/or removal from the Honors program.

Attendance:

Attendance is vital to the successful completion of an Honors course. A student who is absent for more than 15% of class meetings is considered non-attending and will be denied Honors credit for that specific course.

Academic Honesty: (Please closely review the enclosed handout with your child.)

All students are expected to behave with academic honesty. A student who does not maintain academic honesty will be subject to the following consequences:

1st Offense: Zero for the assignment, discipline referral, call home, loss of Honors privileges (including the picnic) for the year

2nd Offense: Zero for the assignment, discipline referral, call home, Honors designation removed from transcript for all current courses, removal from the Honors program for the current year

***NOTE:** For meeting the Honors criteria, the Honors pass was created so that Honors students could have a bit of freedom in their movement around the building. The pass can be revoked at any time for receiving disciplinary referrals or for failing any class as assessed at each five-week interval. Each student is given a pass at the beginning of each year, and if a student loses this pass, a new one will be issued at the end of that ten-week marking period for a \$5 fee.

AuSable Valley High School

Honors Program Application

I have read the attached materials, and I agree to the requirements and conditions for **potential entry** to and participation in the AuSable Valley Middle/High School Honors Program. I am requesting to be scheduled into the following course(s) with Honors designation for the 2010-11 school year.

Please accept or decline only course(s) that are highlighted

Honors Course	Accept	Decline
English 8 Honors	_____	_____
English 9 Honors	_____	_____
English 10 Honors	_____	_____
English 11 Honors	_____	_____
Social Studies 8 Honors	_____	_____
Global 9 Honors	_____	_____
Global 10 Honors	_____	_____
Science 8 Honors	_____	_____
Earth Science Honors	_____	_____
Living Environment Honors	_____	_____
Chemistry Honors	_____	_____
Algebra Honors	_____	_____
Geometry Honors	_____	_____
Adv Alg 2 Honors	_____	_____

(Student)

(Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

Essay Requirement

(To be turned in with application if you've never written one)

*The Honors Program will prove to be demanding and rigorous, yet the rewards for your success are immeasurable. Explain in a 400-600 word (1&1/2-2 page) essay why you believe the Honors Committee should accept you for entry into the program **and** explain why you will be a successful Honors student. **All essays will be accepted unless requirements have not been followed.***

- **Typed**
- **Double spaced**
- **Name and date in upper left hand corner**

Application and essay must be turned in to Ms. Perrin (personally, my mailbox in the main office or classroom B108) no later than June 3, 2010.

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DEADLINE.