

PIONEER TECHNOLOGY & ARTS ACADEMY

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy, our middle school students are in the process of preparing for the 2026-2027 school year by meeting with their counselors and reviewing their courses for next year. Students will make elective course selections during the meeting, review core teacher recommendations, and discuss college and career plans.

We, the middle school principals, are pleased to share our varied course offerings with you as partners in your child's education.

- Honors courses- Honors courses are offered in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Often these courses move at a faster pace and explore the content in more depth. The coursework challenges students to connect with other content areas, and the world, through problem-solving and independent investigations.
- Honors ELAR- Students participating in honors ELAR will be expected to complete a summer reading project before the new school year begins. Additional information will be provided.

PTAA's middle school honors program is designed to meet the needs of high-achieving students through advanced learning opportunities which provide a qualitatively differentiated curriculum, acceleration, and depth and complexity of the subject matter. Honors courses are offered in mathematics, science, reading/language arts, and social studies.

Attached you will find the criteria for a Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy student to be enrolled in Middle School Honor Courses. Transfer Students placement in honors classes will be based on past academic records and required prerequisites that have been achieved. A test will be given for a student to qualify for Honors class where transcripts do not match our course progression/program.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's guidance counselor to review the course selection process and criteria.

Sincerely,
PTAA Middle School Principals

PIONEER TECHNOLOGY & ARTS ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS CRITERIA**MATHEMATICS COURSES****6TH GRADE HONORS MATH**

- A Student qualifies by attaining all three items:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in 5th Grade Math course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 5th STAAR Math assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.

7TH GRADE HONORS MATH

- If currently in Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in 6th-grade Math Honors course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 6th STAAR Math assessment.
- If currently in Non-Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in 6th Grade Math course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 6th STAAR Math assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.

8th GRADE ALGEBRA I

- If currently in Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in 7th-grade Math Honors course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the STAAR assessment.
- If currently in Non-Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in 7th Grade Math course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Math assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.

ELAR COURSES**HONORS ELAR 6th Grade**

- A Student qualifies by meeting all three criteria:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in 5th ELAR Grade course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 5th STAAR Reading assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.

HONORS ELAR 7th Grade

- If currently in Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in 6th-grade ELAR Honors course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 6th STAAR reading assessment.
- If currently in Non-Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 6th Grade ELAR course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 6th STAAR Reading assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.

HONORS ELAR 8th Grade

- If currently in Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in 7th-grade ELAR Honors course
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Reading assessment.
- If currently in Non-Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 7th ELAR course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Reading assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.

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SCIENCE COURSES

HONORS SCIENCE 6

- A Student qualifies by attaining three out of the four following items:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 5th Grade Science course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 5th STAAR Science assessments.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.

HONORS SCIENCE 7

- A Student qualifies by attaining three out of the four following items:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 6th Grade Science course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 6th STAAR Math assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.
- If currently in Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in the 7th-grade Science Honors course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Math assessment.

HONORS SCIENCE 8

- A Student qualifies by attaining three out of the four following items:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 7th Grade Science course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Math assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.
- If currently in Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in the 7th-grade Science Honors course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Math assessment.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 6

- A Student qualifies by attaining three out of the four following items:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 5th Grade Social Studies course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 5th STAAR Reading assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.

HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 7

- A Student qualifies by attaining three out of the four following items:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 6th Grade ELA course.
 - The student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 6th Grade Social Studies course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Reading assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.
- If currently in Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in the 7th-grade SocialStudies Honors course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Reading assessment.

HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 8

- A Student qualifies by attaining three out of the four following items:
 - Student maintains a grade average of 90 in the 7th Grade Social Studies course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Reading assessment.
 - The student receives teacher recommendations to participate in honor courses.
- If currently in Honors:
 - The student maintains a grade average of 75 in the 7th-grade Science Honors course.
 - Student score meets or masters on the 7th STAAR Math assessment.

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Honors Teacher RECOMMENDATION FORM

This form will be filled out for students who want to take an Honors Course. Please fill out the top portion and give it to the specific subject teacher to fill out and return to the school office.

Name of Student: _____

Current Grade and Course: _____

Recommendation for the following course(s): _____

Teacher: _____

Please fill out the checklist below and return it to the school counselor.

Question	Very (5)	Somewhat (4)	Sometimes (3)	Rarely (2)	Never (1)
Homework turned in on time?					
Student is reliable?					
Student works well in groups?					
Student works hard in class?					
Student contributes to the class discussions?					
Student works well on their own?					
Student misses a lot of class time?					

Teacher Signature: _____

Teacher Comments:

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Middle School Honors Classes

Did you know that any student may choose to take honors classes if they meet the criteria?

Here is some information to help you decide if honors classes are right for you!

What is an honors class?

- Honors classes often move at a faster pace and explore the content in more depth. They challenge you to make connections with other content areas and the world through problem-solving and independent investigations.

What are the benefits of taking an honors class?

- Honors classes challenge you to expand your thinking and develop new skills. Experiencing these challenges builds your confidence and prepares you for high school courses. Tasks in honors-level classes give you opportunities to explore your passions and interests more in-depth.

How will I know if I am ready for honors classes?

- Do you have strengths or interests in particular subjects? Do you like to be challenged in school?
 - Honors classes are a great opportunity to develop your strengths further and explore your interests in those subjects. If you want to learn how to work on challenging tasks and push yourself to grow, honors classes may be for you even when things are difficult.

How many honors classes should I take?

- You are encouraged to take at least one honors class in middle school to experience higher academic rigor before going to high school. You may choose to take honors classes in Math, English, Social Studies, and Science. When deciding how many honors classes to take, consider your strengths and interests, outside responsibilities and activities, and time management skills.

How much homework will I have in middle school honors classes?

- Honors classes should not have more homework than other classes.
 - Pioneer Technology & Arts Academy has a policy that homework in middle school should not exceed 1.0 hours daily.
 - Long-term projects may require additional time.

Where can I find additional information about the honors classes?

- Families and students can talk to teachers and counselors at their PTAA location to help make decisions about Honors classes in middle school. The Counselor or Principals at your middle school can provide additional information about honors classes.

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Did you know?

YOU CAN TAKE HONORS CLASSES!

Why should you take honors classes



*Explore passions, interests
and career possibilities!*



*Challenge yourself and
Develop new skills*



*Prepare for **high** school courses!*

***Build** confidence!*



What should you do?

*Talk to your family about
which honors course(s) to take!*

*When it is time to select
courses for next year,
challenge yourself--
CHOOSE HONORS!*