

Listening to the Community

AP/Honors Forum- February 28, 2017

Board of Education Meeting- March 6, 2017

The Research

A Special Section on the Achievement Gap

Closing the Achievement Gap by Detracking

Achievement follows from opportunities, Ms. Burris and Mr. Welner assert, and the persistent practice of tracking denies a range of opportunities to large numbers of students. That a disproportionate number of these students are minorities is one of the underlying reasons that the achievement gap has remained so persistent. The authors describe how a diverse suburban district in New York narrowed the gap by offering its high-track curriculum to all students.

CAROL CORBETT BURRIS AND
KEVIN G. WELNER



HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

RED BANK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

September 15, 2015

Dear Ninth Grade English Student:

During your freshman year at Red Bank Regional High School, you have the opportunity to enroll in the English I honors option embedded in the college preparatory class. You may feel ready for the rigorous challenges typical of an honors program, so to provide those challenges, RBR offers this unique program. While enrolled in the honors option students develop advanced writing skills and receive a weighted grade for English I CP. Our guidance department uses this weighted average to calculate your grade point average.

An English student wishing to participate in the honors option must:

- Complete six honors projects assigned by his/her teacher throughout the school year.
- Demonstrate ambition and commitment to academic success by completing all honors and college preparatory assignments in a timely fashion.
- Maintain a level of decorum indicative of an honors student.
- Create a portfolio of his/her honors assignments.

Example 1- Red Bank Regional



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Example 2- Branford High

Branford High School's English 10 Honors Option

Branford High School • 185 E. Main Street • Branford, CT • 06406

Overview

The Branford High School English 10 curriculum is designed to challenge all students. An Honors Option exists for those students seeking to explore the course concepts and skills in greater depth or breadth. Students who earn the honors distinction in English 10 are expected to meet and exceed the expectations for the standard curriculum in the course, and they must show evidence of extended learning in the subject matter. To this end, honors level students in English 10 should be able to demonstrate capabilities through more thoughtful literature responses, extended literary analysis, deeper textual connections, self-motivated learning habits, and regular reflective pieces.

Expectations and Requirements

- English teachers will provide clear expectations for the honors distinction through the use of a rubric, which spells out the requirements for the honors portfolio. In addition, information will be provided to help guide students on how they can clearly demonstrate their learning in these areas. In order to achieve an honors distinction in English 10, a student must
- § Satisfactorily complete all coursework assigned in English 10
 - § Earn at least a B for the course
 - § Complete at least five honors level reading and writing extension assignments over the course of the year
 - § Show evidence of extended learning through their papers and classroom discussions
 - § Complete a reflective mid-year portfolio exhibiting evidence of your honors level work
 - § Complete an extended [vocabulary component](#) and application
 - § Exhibit evidence of insightful literature analysis and connections in writing and classroom discussions
 - § Show evidence of self-motivated learning habits and responsible behavior



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Honors Options

Students desiring challenge beyond a course's standard curriculum may elect to receive honors credit if the course has been designated as an honors option course in the registration guide. To receive honors credit for an honors option course, a student must successfully complete assignments designated by the instructor which differ in depth, pace of content, quality of product, use of higher order thinking skills, and opportunities for extended projects.

Within 20 school days from the beginning of each semester, students must register for the honors option with the teacher of the course. If a student should subsequently desire to drop the honors option, s/he must do so within the first two weeks of the second quarter of the semester.

[Honors Option Form 2016-2017](#)

[Honors Option Drop Form](#)

Example 3- Rochester Public Schools



Guidance and Scheduling

No sophomore students recommended for honors at this time

Announcement to be made to all sophomores about
US History II With Honors Option

Measuring Success

Final grades and comparison to performance in US History I

Identify the number of students who select the Honors Option who were not in US History I Honors

Identify the number of students taking the honors option but not taking other honors level classes

Pre-post survey responses

Focus group input