

Thank you for your interest in Freshman Honors English. For most of the students at LOHS, the rigorous curriculum and the balance of direct instruction, guided practice, and personal exploration in the regular college-prep program provide a strong foundation for academic success in high school. Honors level classes, however, are offered for students who have an extensive interest in English and love books, who welcome a more rigorous course of study, and who have performed at a consistently high academic level in their previous language arts classes. Freshman Honors English moves at an accelerated pace with less direct instruction and demands significant student responsibility, participation, and depth of thinking. It also requires extra coursework during the school year, and includes reading and writing in the summer.

**Please type a letter to the selection committee explaining why you are applying to Honors English, and how this more rigorous course would provide you an opportunity to utilize your strengths.** (See additional details below about the letter). Please return your typed letter to your current language arts teacher by the specified due date. **Applications will not be evaluated unless your letter of interest is included.**

The selection committee will be meeting over the next two months to review applications. To determine the appropriate recommendation for your English class next year, we will look at a variety of factors including your on-demand essay and your interest letter. We spend a great deal of time evaluating and discussing these applications, and any applications which receive a borderline score are re-examined in order to determine appropriate placement. Because of this time-consuming process, letters with your appropriate placement for next year will not be mailed home until mid-June.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this process.

#### **What should you write in your letter?**

**Your letter should first and foremost address WHY you are applying to be in Honors English class. A few other things to consider as you write your letter:**

- Students in the Honors program tend to love reading. In your letter, you might discuss books you have recently read and their impact on your life.
- Honors English is also for students who enjoy writing, welcome feedback, and want a wide range of opportunities to hone writing skills. You might write about the role writing plays in your life.
- In addition, Honors English students accept responsibility for contributing to the overall quality of their class experience by offering insightful thoughts and interpretations in discussions. You might want to write about the role you see yourself taking in rich daily discussions with other invested classmates.
- Perhaps you will want to discuss a class or assignment that sparked your own passion for books, writing, and/or discussion.
- Truly, you could write about any of this above, or you could provide some other story that exemplifies your interest for this exciting program.
- Finally, do not feel the need to be overly formal in your letter. Write through your own voice!