

Dear Ninth Grade Parent/Guardian:

As part of the traditional English 9 course at West High School, students will now have the opportunity to earn an honors distinction that will be reflected on their official academic transcript.

Instead of having a separate Honors class, “English 9 Honors” will be embedded within their regular English 9 class much like a graduate student doing a more rigorous curriculum in an undergraduate class in college.

The English 9 Honors distinction can only be earned during the second and third trimesters at West High. Once the application process has been completed and students have been registered as English 9 Honors students, they will be expected to adhere to the 9 Honors expectations/grading criteria and cannot drop the honors distinction during the trimester.

For students deciding if they would like to challenge themselves more, we’ve provided a general guideline as to how the English 9 Honors course will differ from the standard course (see: “At a Glance: Distinguishing between English 9 and English 9 Honors”).

Application Process:

1. Perspective English 9 Honors students should discuss the requirements of an honors distinction with their parents/guardians.
2. Honors candidates must then declare their intent to their current English teacher preferably no later than the week following parent teacher conferences.
3. Honor candidates will then have an informal discussion with their current English teacher and secure their verbal recommendation.
4. Honor candidates will then submit an essay/letter of intent which will be based on student responses to a standardized prompt provided by their English 9 teacher.

Your student will receive more details regarding this option when the window to declare his or her intention approaches.

We’re excited about this addition of an honors curriculum. We look forward to working with you and your child as together we prepare them to take on the next level of learning challenges.

Sincerely,

West High English Department