



Pequannock Township High School

85 Sunset Road
Pompton Plains, New Jersey 07444
Tel. (973) 616-6000; Fax. (973) 616-6029
www.pequannock.org

Mr. Frank A. Ingargiola, Principal

Richard Hayzler, Vice Principal of Academic Affairs

Theodore R. Loeffler, Dean of Students

Louis Tatti, Director of Guidance

Patrick Lalley, Director of Athletics

January 25, 2009

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

This year, PTHS will continue our practice of using a twenty-five point rubric for continuation in or advancement into the high school's honors and AP programs. In our efforts to refine the rubric further, we will be offering placement assessments in the following disciplines:

- mathematics/science
- English/social studies
- Spanish

These assessments will be developed using teacher input, the newly adopted state standards and the recent New Jersey *End-of-Course Exam* operational blueprints (where applicable). Our goal is to have all students appropriately placed and to maximize students' opportunities to challenge themselves in more rigorous coursework.

During the week of February 8, 2010 – February 12, 2010, students interested in pursuing honors level course work in the 2010 – 2011 school year will be ***required*** to take one or all of the three placement assessments contingent upon their interest. All assessments will be administered in the respective subject area classes on the dates indicated below:

Monday, February 8, 2010	-	mathematics/science	-	Exam 1
Wednesday, February 10, 2010	-	English/social studies	-	Exam 2
Thursday, February 11, 2010	-	Spanish	-	Exam 3
Friday, February 12, 2010	-	Spanish	-	Exam 3

(Two days are needed in Spanish to accommodate the rotation)

There will be a total of three assessments administered. Assessment 1 will be used to place students in both the mathematics and science honors/AP programs. Assessment 2 will be used to place students in both the English and social studies honors/AP programs. Assessment 3 will be used to place students in the Spanish honors/AP program. As these are skills-based assessments, please communicate with your children that there is no special preparation needed to be successful.

Students who are absent or miss a particular assessment must provide a physician's excuse note in order to be issued a scheduled make-up. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Ingargiola
Principal

Richard M. Hayzler
Vice Principal of Academic Affairs

F.A.Q.s

Q: *Do I have to take the assessment if I am already in honors classes?*

A: Yes. Students currently enrolled in honors classes must take the appropriate assessment(s) if they wish to continue in the honors program in the subsequent year.

Q: *I'm not sure if I should take an honors class. Should I sit for the exam?*

A: Yes. We encourage all students who are committed to excelling and challenging themselves to sit for the assessment(s).

Q: *I am only interested in English honors. Do I have to sit for all of the assessments?*

A: No. You need only sit for the content areas in which you are interested.

Assessment 1	Mathematics/Science
Assessment 2	English/Social Studies
Assessment 3	Spanish

Q: *Will these assessments be used to determine placement in Advanced Placement courses as well?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Does the rubric include other criteria as well?*

A: Yes. The rubric is made up of five distinct criteria. Each component is valued and scaled at five points for a perfect score of 25 points.

Criterion I	-	An average of marking period 1 and marking period 2
Criterion II	-	An average of quarterly exam 1 and quarterly exam 2
Criterion III	-	Teacher recommendation based on motivation to do honors level coursework
Criterion IV	-	Teacher recommendation based on academic aptitude to succeed in honors level coursework
Criterion V	-	Grade on appropriate honors exam(s)

Q: *Can a student take honors/AP courses if he/she does not take the assessment?*

A: No. Students must take the assessment(s) in order to be assigned the courses.

Q: *Why is there no exam for Latin or French?*

A: As the number of students currently enrolled in both French and Latin does warrant multiple sections (i.e. Honors & Academic), honors weighting will be administered as per teacher recommendation and the recently adopted (12/21/09) *Board Policy 2320 - Independent Course of Study*.

Q: *Is there a parental waiver into honors/AP?*

A: No. There is no parental waiver process.

Q: *Is there an administrative appeal process?*

A: Yes. Administrative appeals will be heard by the principal and/or vice principal of academic affairs for any student who falls within two points of the target cut score for both honors and/or AP.