

Re: About Honors for 6th grade...

From: Thomasson, Leah <leahthomasson@ccusd.org>

Thu, Feb 14, 2019 at 12:53 PM PST (GMT-08:00)

To: Villafranca, Elsy <elsyvillafanra@ccusd.org>

Yeah, I have an appointment with you for tomorrow at 8:30!
We can talk about honors and SRI for the future.

Looking forward to it!

Leah

On Thu, Feb 14, 2019 at 12:49 PM Villafranca, Elsy <elsyvillafanra@ccusd.org> wrote:

Let's meet. What is going to make the honors sections in 7th/8th grade any different? The number of sections are based on student recommendations and waiver numbers, not a set number of sections we're trying to fill. Let's talk in person. Can you schedule an appt with Susan?

Elsy Villafranca, Principal
Culver City Middle School
4601 Elenda Street
Culver City, CA 90230
(310)842-4200 x3323



On Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 10:54 AM Thomasson, Leah <leahthomasson@ccusd.org> wrote:

Hey Elsy!

I would love to know your thoughts on how our department is feeling about the honors program at CCMS.

In summary:

- We would like to get rid of 6th grade honors totally
- Use 6th grade as an evaluation year for honors placement for 7th grade (use same recommendation process for 8th grade)
- Offer fewer Honors sections for 7th and 8th grade

Currently we use 4 data points for recommendations:

SRI score

SBAC score

Overall grade

Teacher comment on effort / drive / x-factor

We like this format and intend to use it for the foreseeable future.

After students receive their recommendation towards the end of their 6th and 7th grade year, current 7th and 8th grade teachers would require some type of additional step for students recommended for honors--maybe an in-class essay or report or presentation (haven't decided on that)

We feel that our honors classes aren't truly honors because "honors" has turned into code for "behaved and compliant children"

Our non-honors classes are therefore more or less the opposite of that.

What do you think?

We feel that the community of parents would support this because (1) we aren't getting rid of honors in middle school, just making it more purposeful and (2) they are already used to no honors in 5th grade and (3) there are still GATE / enrichment opportunities in 6th grade that aren't necessarily honors.

We also think that while there will be SOME parents that waive their student into Honors, by and large parents will respect the recommendation.

Should we meet in person?

Talk soon!

Leah

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Leah Thomasson

8th Grade English Language Arts

ELA Department Chair

Culver City Middle School

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Leah Thomasson

8th Grade English Language Arts

ELA Department Chair

Culver City Middle School
