

# Pascack Valley Regional High School District

Montvale



Woodcliff Lake



River Vale



Hillsdale



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To the Parents or Guardians of Incoming Ninth Grade Students:

After many hours of careful deliberation and articulation, the eighth grade Language Arts and Social Studies teachers of each middle school, in collaboration with teachers and administrators from Pascack Valley and Pascack Hills High Schools, have determined the criteria for English and Social Studies honors placement of the incoming ninth grade students. This letter is to share the process for placement with each of you.

## HONORS ENGLISH AND/OR HONORS WORLD HISTORY

There are several weighted components that will be evaluated for students wishing entry into either Honors English I, Honors World History, or both honors classes. They are listed below:

1. A common rubric, devised by the District Language Arts and Social Studies Articulation Committees, will be used by current eighth grade teachers to evaluate their students. These rubrics will be forwarded to the high school English and Social Studies Supervisors.
2. Timed reading and writing tasks will be administered to all eighth graders in their own schools during the month of December.
  - a. Students attending schools **outside** of our four sending districts (out-of-district students) will be required to take a placement test which will be given on January 11, 2017. This test will be administered at Pascack Valley High School in the Lecture Hall, Room 201, commencing at 3:30PM.
3. Students interested in honors placement will be asked to self-nominate electronically. The form is also located on the school website at [www.pascack.k12.nj.us](http://www.pascack.k12.nj.us). Students should complete this self-nomination form on or before December 12, 2016.
4. **Out-of-District** students should give the enclosed teacher rubric forms to their current English and Social Studies teachers for completion. The completed rubrics must be returned directly to the addresses indicated on each form. Rubrics must be received **by the high school district** no later than December 12, 2016.

It is expected that potential honors students will satisfactorily meet the criteria of these components.

\*Any student not eligible for honors placement will be placed in an appropriate 9<sup>th</sup> grade College Preparatory English and 9<sup>th</sup> grade College Preparatory World History class.

We suggest that you read the “Honors English and Honors World History: A Profile” which is located on our district website ([www.pascack.k12.nj.us](http://www.pascack.k12.nj.us)) so that you may decide if these sound like appropriate placements for your child. Naturally, course content and specific readings/assignments will vary each year to reflect the strengths of individual teachers and the abilities of specific students. However, you will find that the high expectations and anticipated workload will remain a constant in each of these subjects.

Sincerely,

PASCACK VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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