

MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY SCHOOL



HONOURS

**STUDENT APPLICATION
PACKAGE
FOR CURRENT STUDENTS**

**MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY SCHOOL
HONOURS APPLICATION FORM for CURRENT STUDENTS**

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student #: _____

Honours classes the student wishes to take:

English **10 H** **11 H** **12H**

Social Studies **10 H** **11 H**

Mathematics **10 H** **11 H** **12H**

Please return this form to
Ms. Megan Jory
Counselling Department
Mount Douglas Secondary School

DEADLINE: March 30, 2009

- **Students** need to ask their current subject teachers to fill out the teacher package for the Honours courses for which they are applying. Students must get their teachers to initial below to confirm that they have informed them of their intent to apply for Honours.

English: _____ Social Studies: _____ Mathematics: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____ Name: _____
Please print. *Please print.* *Please print.*

Please note: *invitations to enroll in an Honours Course are extended by the faculty in each subject area, after reviewing the information made available to them. A short 'alternate list' is also maintained in the event that an invited student cannot be given a complete timetable that reflects all of their areas of interest. Honours courses for selected students will appear on the students' timetables which are distributed by late June.*

HONOURS STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

Please bear in mind that these descriptors, and your subject-specific comments to the right, bear significant weight in the honours selection process.

Cognitive Ability

- Immediately acquires profound understanding of new concepts.
- Independently makes meaningful and accurate relationships between new and prior knowledge; has perceptive questions and comments.
- Has no difficulty with even the most challenging problems presented.
- Quickly understands complex relationships and processes.

Commitment to Learning:

- Very attentive in class; easily engaged in learning and comfortable working with others.
- Always does assignments and homework in an exemplary manner.
- Willing to take risks and make mistakes – for example, makes a ‘best guess’ at a question rather than waiting for the correct answer in class.
- Always makes a special effort and consistently goes beyond expectations.
- Participates willingly in any class activity in a positive and helpful way.

Creativity:

- Has a knack for organizing and presenting ideas in novel and interesting ways.
- Often sees ideas in unusual ways; makes unexpected but valid relationships between concepts.
- Tries a variety of ways of approaching a challenging problem; often invents his/her own successful techniques.
- Often approaches assignments in alternative ways where appropriate.

Adaptability to Learning Environments:

- Very capable, independent learner: self-motivated, well-organized, responsible, and thorough.
- Identifies and remedies his/her own weaknesses without prompting.
- Sets priorities and plans study time.
- Makes full use of time available in and out of class.
- Is a keen and valued participant in group work.
- Makes useful proposals and listen constructively to ideas of others.
- Makes compromises for the benefit of the group.
- Can lead or acquiesce as needed; is a team player.

HONOURS CLASSES AT MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mount Douglas Secondary School maintains a high standard in all classes. Last year 24% of our graduating class received a \$1000 provincial scholarship. Mount Douglas graduates received 40% of all provincial scholarships awarded to the district. The honours classes at Mount Douglas Secondary have prepared many of these students to be competitive when applying for government and university entrance scholarships.

For students with exceptional interest and outstanding achievement in certain subject areas, Mount Douglas Secondary School offers one 'honours' section in Mathematics, English and Social Studies in grade 9. In grade 10 and 11, honours classes are offered in Mathematics, English and Social Studies. An honours class is offered in Mathematics and English in grade 12 as well as Advanced Placement courses in Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, English and Mandarin.

For incoming grade 9 students, selection for honours' classes is based on the previous years' report card results as well as consultation with teachers. There is also a placement test for students applying for Honours Mathematics and English 9. For students previously registered at Mount Douglas, enrollment is by invitation of each academic department. Students are not necessarily expected to enroll in a full program of honours classes, nor are they guaranteed a seat in an honours section from year to year. Each year's invitations are based on the level of achievement in the previous year, with attention also given to such factors as regular attendance, perceptiveness, collaborative skills, the ability to work independently, and the level of creative contributions to class discussions.

Honours classes are no smaller than regular classes; they are maintained at maximum class size. They offer accelerated progress, greater breadth of study, and more independent work than regular classes. Work in honours is 'harder' than work in regular classes; the pace is swift and expectations are high.

In most cases, honours students write the same final examinations as regular students. It is also important to note that an honours designation is not recognized by the Ministry of Education and does not appear on official transcripts or on the Dogwood Certificate issued at graduation. Some universities do, however, ask on admission forms whether students have participated in honours classes.

HOW TO APPLY FOR HONOURS CLASSES

1. Review the above information. *Students, parents and teacher should discuss the appropriateness of placement of the student in honours classes and in **which of the three subjects areas the student should consider seeking honours placement. Students may apply for more than one honours class at a time.***
2. All student application packages must be submitted to Ms. Jory by:

Monday, March 30, 2009