



**THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Fisher Middle School**

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May 16, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Fisher Middle School strives to provide the best possible education for our students. We believe that providing a variety of levels of courses offered in both the Mathematics and Language Arts departments will allow students to reach their highest potential.

Fisher Middle School is redefining the criteria for its Gifted & Talented program. During the 2023-24 school year, students will be placed into Honors Mathematics or Humanities (Language Arts) based on the following criteria:

**Humanities:** Students will be considered for Humanities, based on a 12-point rubric in the following areas:

- An average of grades for marking periods 1-3
- An average i-Ready Reading assessment scores for marking periods 1-3
- An average of Writing Benchmark assessments for marking periods 1-3

**Honors Mathematics:** Students will be considered based on a 12-point rubric in the following areas:

- Math Content Understanding Test
- Mathematics Problem Solving Test
- Mathematics Reasoning Test

The redefined criteria will not impact students currently enrolled in Honors Mathematics and Humanities, but applies to rising sixth through eighth grade students interested in the honors courses. Students currently enrolled in either of these programs must continue to maintain an 80% or higher grade to remain in the program. This new criteria will allow Fisher's Honors Program to be expanded to be more inclusive and equitable for other students.

Students who are interested in enrolling in an honors level course should keep in mind that the work required to be successful in the course will be more demanding than a non-honors course but will ultimately be more rewarding. It has been found that students who are successful in honors courses possess the following attributes:

- Are highly organized and have effective time management skills
- Can analyze, evaluate and interpret complex concepts

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- Can successfully work independently
- Able to analyze more complex texts
- Are motivated to apply what they have learned to real life situations
- Have a genuine interest in the subject and “do not mind” the extra work

Parents can recommend screening their son/daughter for the 2023-2024 school year honors math program by submitting a recommendation through Google Forms by Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Screening assessments will be administered in June 2023.

[Fisher Honors Math Parent Nomination Form](#)

Note that all students, not already in Humanities, will be screened for placement in Humanities using the three criteria listed above. Parent nominations are not necessary because all students are being evaluated, based on internal assessments.

If there are questions about a particular placement, the Department Supervisors can be contacted for further information.

Humanities: Sara Graja at [sgraja@ewingboe.org](mailto:sgraja@ewingboe.org) or 609-538-9800 x2156

Honors Mathematics: Don Wahlers at [dwahlers@ewingboe.org](mailto:dwahlers@ewingboe.org) or 609-538-9800 x5155

Sincerely,

*Maggy Hanna*  
Dr. Maggy Hanna  
Principal