
MMSI Update and Honors Academy Proposal

Honors Academy Objective and Rationale

- To develop a research based, academically advanced, selective programming option that connects to the FHS MMSI grant and the AALI programming in the FPS K-8 schools.
- Research: WPI Math and Science Academy, Lowell HS Latin Lyceum, Boston Latin, BU Academy (9-12), Spring Meadow High School (TN)
 - Visit to Lowell HS to observe Latin Lyceum
- Shipley, Kendall. “The Effects of a School-within-a-School Honors Academy.” Dissertation. Treve
Nazarene University. May 2011.



Mission



To provide exceptional students with an opportunity to participate in a sequence of sophisticated, advanced courses during their four years at Fitchburg High School. If accepted into the Red Raider Honors Academy, students will pursue personal excellence in academics and citizenship and cultivate leadership skills through a series of required community-based service activities. To align with FHS's Advanced Placement courses, there will be a focus on mathematics, science, and English.

Target Student Population

A socially responsible student entering ninth grade who has demonstrated superior academic performance as evidenced by grades and standardized testing.



Skill Set Emphasis

The following skills and characteristics will be emphasized and demonstrated via an academic and reflection portfolio that is developed and maintained each year -

- Independent, self-starting learner
- Intellectually curious and inquisitive
- Collaborative partner and team member
- Technology integrator (able to demonstrate the use and synthesize information from various technological resources)
- Exceptional communicator - writing, oral
- Socially responsible community advocate





- Up to 30 students (1 section)
- Grades – A-/90%+ in academic courses during 8th grade year (7th grade results will be analyzed as well)
- Standardized Testing - Advanced or Proficient on 7th grade MCAS in math/ELA
- Placement Exam - English/Math
- Reference - (faculty member and/or community member)

Requirements of program

- Minimum B average and fulfillment of service requirements
- Students must complete at least one Advanced Placement class in each of the following content areas:
 - Science (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics B)
 - Math (Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics)
 - English (English Language, English Literature)
 - Social Studies (US History, Psychology, US Government)



Components

- Capstone service based project during senior year;
- Special designation on the transcript;
 - *Student completed the rigorous requirements of the FHS Honors Academy*



Proposed Freshmen Schedule

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Pre-AP Biology	Pre-AP Biology	Pre-AP Chemistry	Pre-AP Chemistry
Common Core Alg 1	Common Core Alg 1	CC Algebra 2	CC Algebra 2
Freshmen Seminar w/Tech	**History of Fitchburg**	World History	World History
English	English	Foreign Language/Band/ Other Approved Elective	Foreign Language/Band/ Other Approved Elective

MMSI – A.P. Grant Update

- Enrollments are on the rise
- Students are attending Saturday Sessions
 - 2 thus far for English, Science and Math
- Teachers have been gaining valuable, content-specific PD in vertical and horizontal sessions with our cohort and at state level
- AP Tests begin on May 6th with Chemistry and Psychology

Reducing the Achievement Gaps

- 2011-2012 – Free/Reduced Lunch Enrollments

26

- 2012-2013 – Free/Reduced Lunch Enrollments

92



The most important statistic . . .
29 Qualifying Scores in 2011-
2012

??? Qualifying Scores in 2012-
2013



Review of Letter to Parents/Students

- **Question and Answer**

