



WGSS English 8 Honours Application Package

Course Description:

English 8 Honours shares the same skills focus as English 8:

- communication (writing, grammar and oral presentation),
- understanding of basic story structure (character, plot and setting),
- identification of poetic devices,
- familiarity with non-fiction (main ideas, examples and summary), and
- appreciation of different genres of literature.

The Honours class moves quickly through basic thinking skills like comprehension and summary, leaving more time for critical thinking and analysis. We place a strong emphasis on big picture thinking. We try to find connections, looking for ways in which what we already know can take us to somewhere new. We work thematically, using the concepts of the literary hero and the heroic journey to move from Greek mythology through the Middle Ages and into the modern comic book superhero. What can we learn about ourselves by studying our hero stories?

**Walnut Grove Secondary School
English 8 Honours Application Form**



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Current Elementary School: _____

Email Address: _____
(student's or parents' or both)

List three of your favourite things about English:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Identify a book that you have read recently. Would you recommend it to other students to read? Explain.



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Describe an assignment or a project that you completed in Language Arts in grade 6 or 7 that you enjoyed or are particularly proud of.

Tell us why **we** would want **you** to be in our English 8 Honours class. What would you bring to the experience?



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Please rate your strengths and weaknesses as a learner in the following areas:

	Low ----- High
• Interest in reading	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Interest in ideas of others	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Working with others in groups	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Creative thinking	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Problem-solving	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Ability to write effective sentences	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Ability to edit and proofread well	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Ability to express ideas orally	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Understanding difficult concepts	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
• Intellectual Curiosity	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Feel free to add here any other information that you would like us to consider as a part of your application. You can leave this section blank if you prefer.



Dear English Honours Parent/Guardian:

January 20, 2017

Thank you for considering Walnut Grove Secondary School's English 8 Honours class for your child. We know that the active role of parents in education is key to student success. We welcome your support for, and involvement in, your child's Grade 8 experience.

Interested students should follow a three-step process:

- Fill out a student application form and return it to your grade 7 teacher along with your WGSS registration form.
- Detach the teacher recommendation form at the end of this package and ask your grade 7 teacher to complete it and turn it in with the registration forms.
- Attend one of two sessions of a screening test.

The Screening Test is a measure of writing skills and creative thinking. It is not a test for which students can study. Coming to high school to write a "test" may sound intimidating, but we want to encourage students not to worry too much in advance.

There will be two sittings for the Honours Placement Exam.
Please choose ONE of the two sitting dates below to attend:

Monday, April 3th **OR** Tuesday April 4th

The exam will take place at 3:30 p.m. in Room 166 at WGSS. It will take one hour.

We expect to have more students writing the test than we have places for in the English 8 Honours class. A team of English teachers will screen the applications and test results to make the best possible decisions about placement. We will use the BC Ministry of Education Performance Standards assessment rubrics for Grade 7 Language Arts to mark the tests.

Students who are admitted to the program will be notified on or before June 30th. We encourage students who apply but are not successful to work hard in English 8 and reapply for English 9 Honours for the following year.

If you have any further questions, please contact Lynn Gibson at lgibson@sd35.bc.ca or the grade 8 counsellor Andrea Ruffo at aruffo@sd35.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Lynn Gibson
English 8 Honours teacher

Andrea Ruffo
Grade 8 Counsellor