

Beaver

Honors Recommendation Policy

Beaver offers students varying levels in which to engage with course material and concepts. The Honors level is an opportunity for students to explore topics/themes related to the course with more depth and at a more sophisticated, complex, and demanding level.

Math and Science:

Each spring, the Math and Science departments meet to discuss placement for the following year's courses. In our efforts to place each student in the section where they will have the most success, we consider students' willingness to challenge themselves by **exploring analytical and abstract concepts more in-depth, at an accelerated pace, and with extensive independent research on content and theory.**

When making placement recommendations, each department also considers the unique skill sets demanded by particular courses. We make every effort to determine the appropriate placement for each student, and we re-evaluate each student's needs each year. Students commonly shift from one level to another during their time at Beaver so that students are provided with support and challenge at the appropriate times.

English, Global History, and Modern Languages:

In the English, Global History, and Modern Language departments, ninth-grade classes (only Level 1 in Modern Language) are all offered at the Standard (S1) level only, giving students a year to accustom themselves to the demands of the Upper School curriculum.

In the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades, **students may elect to take their English and Global History courses at the Honors level.** Students in Foundations, Intermediate, or Advanced Modern Language courses may take courses at the Honors level at any grade level. **Choices are made in the first week of the term.** Specific expectations for honors students are outlined in the course syllabus provided to students on the first day of the class. While the departments are committed to providing every student with a challenging curriculum, **the Honors program is open to any student who wishes to engage with either subject at a more sophisticated, complex, and demanding level.** In making their

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decisions, students should consult their current English, Global History, and Modern Language teachers and/or the head of the respective department.

Select Singers:

Select Singers is an Honors choral ensemble that auditions in the spring for the following school year. During the audition, students are assessed on their musicianship, breathing, and alignment, artistry and expression, language and diction, and sightreading. Creating a balanced ensemble of soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers is also taken into consideration when forming the group. Students should be highly motivated and committed to learning advanced musicianship skills and be prepared to sing for public concerts in smaller ensembles and quartets.