

## **G.A.T.E./Honors English 1 Application Form**

### **Course Overview**

The G.A.T.E./Honors English 1 course is offered to students capable of enjoying, profiting from, and contributing to a demanding advanced academic course. This course is designed to service the needs of students who exceed the standards, and through their state test scores, writing samples, and English class grades, have proven themselves as high achievers who exhibit critical and analytical thinking, as well as writing skills necessary for an Honors English course.

**The course is open to all who meet the admission requirements and is not limited to G.A.T.E identified students or to those currently enrolled in an honors English class.**

### **Advantages of an Honors Class:**

Students who participate in the Honors/AP program during their years at BUHS profit in several ways:

1. Extra high school grade point for Honors English 9 and 10 and AP 11 and AP 12.
2. Intense literary study and in-class essay writing as preparation for the Advanced Placement exam in AP 11 and AP 12 courses and for college English courses.
3. College credits (at most colleges) earned with a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP English exams given in May of the junior and senior years. As a result, students may be exempted with credit from introductory college English courses during their freshman year.

### **Course Requirements**

Because of limits to the number of students who can take the course, and in order to maintain the rigor necessary for an Honors course, all students seeking entry to G.A.T.E./Honors English 1 must meet the following qualifications:

- Have scored “**Advanced**” on the ELA section of the CST’s the previous academic year. (Proficient may be considered.)
- Read **at or above** grade level.
- Have received grades of “**A**” or “**B**” in English courses the previous 2 semesters.

### **Criteria for Placement:**

Students must complete and submit the following items:

- \_\_\_1. G.A.T.E./Honors English 1 Contract (on back of this form)
- \_\_\_3. Letter of Intent (See directions below.)
- \_\_\_4. A copy of a graded student essay from this year’s Language Arts class

### **Letter of Intent: Please type or write legibly in blue or black ink.**

Write a letter discussing why you should be considered for placement in an Honors English class. This letter should be an example of your best work. Focus on the following aspects in the letter: (Suggested length: Approximately 250 words or ½ a page)

- What do you hope to gain from taking an honors class?
- How will you be a positive asset to the class? Do you bring special qualities to an honors class? If so, what are these qualities? Are you a good contributor to class discussion? Do you love to write? Are you creative? Are you an avid reader?
- The teachers for Honors 9 provide very honest feedback to help students improve their writing skills. How well do you take constructive criticism? Why is constructive criticism important?

## G.A.T.E./Honors English 1 Contract

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Middle School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts CST Score \_\_\_\_\_ Proficiency Level \_\_\_\_\_

8<sup>th</sup> Grade English First Semester Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Current English Grade \_\_\_\_\_

### Expectations

1. I understand that the course requires more writing and reading than other classes offered at this grade level; thus, the Honors course is rigorous in content and expectations.
2. I recognize that participation in Honors English classes requires me to:
  - Demonstrate student independence
  - Take on a high degree of responsibility
  - Meet higher standards and expectations than students in College Preparatory courses
3. I understand that if I am struggling in an Honors English class, I am responsible for seeking out extra help from such sources as the school tutoring center, a peer tutor, etc.
4. I commit to maintaining academic honesty and to personally completing all assignments without plagiarism and/or cheating.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Parent/Guardian: by signing below, you acknowledge that you and your child have read and understand the requirements and implications of the G.A.T.E./Honors English 1 English course, and that you would like your child to be considered for enrollment into the course.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date