

MATH HONOURS CLASSES AT MOUNT DOUG SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mount Douglas Secondary maintains a high academic standard in all classes. Many students earn “A”s and “B”s, make the honour roll, and earn scholarships and post-secondary placements.

For students with exceptional interest and outstanding achievement, Mount Doug Secondary School offers one ‘honours’ class in Mathematics at each grade level (depending on numbers). In the area of mathematics, “Advanced Placement” classes are also offered in Calculus and Statistics.

For incoming grade 9 students, selection for honours classes is based on the previous years’ report card and placement testing. Students already at Mount Doug in Grades 9-11 are “recommended and invited” into honours classes by their teachers. Please note that students are not guaranteed a seat in an honours section from year to year. Each year’s invitations are based on level of achievement in the previous year, with attention also given to such factors as regular attendance, perceptiveness, collaborative skills, the ability to work independently, and the level of creative contributions to class discussions.

Honours classes are no smaller than regular classes; they are maintained at maximum class size. They offer accelerated progress, greater breadth of study, and more independent work than regular classes. Work in honours is ‘harder’ than work in regular classes; the pace is swift and expectations are high.

In most cases, honours students write the same final examinations as the other students. It is also important to note that honours designation is not recognized by the Ministry of Education and does not appear on official transcripts or on the Dogwood Certificate issued at graduation. Some universities do, however, ask on admission forms whether students have participated in honours classes.

IS HONOURS FOR YOU?

Please keep in mind that most, if not all, of the following descriptors should apply to you.

Cognitive Ability

- Immediately acquires profound understanding of new concepts
- Independently makes meaningful and accurate relationships between new and prior knowledge—perceptive questions and comments
- Has no difficulty with even the most challenging problems presented
- Quickly understands complex relationships and processes

Creativity

- Has a knack for organizing and presenting ideas in interesting ways
- Often sees ideas in unusual ways; makes unexpected but valid relationships between concepts
- Tries a variety of ways of approaching a challenging problem
- Often invents his/her own successful techniques to learning
- Often approaches assignments in alternative ways where appropriate



Commitment to Learning

- Very attentive in class
- Is easily engaged in learning and comfortable working with others
- Always does assignments and homework in an exemplary manner
- Willing to take risks and make mistakes – for example, makes a “best guess” at a question rather than waiting for the correct answer in class
- Always makes a special effort – consistently goes beyond expectations
- Participates willingly in any class activity in a positive and helpful way

Adaptability to Learning Environments

- Is a very capable, independent learner
- Is self-motivated, well-organized, responsible, and thorough
- Identifies and remedies his/her own weaknesses without prompting
- Sets priorities and plans study time
- Makes full use of time available in and out of class
- Is a keen and valued participant in group work
- Makes useful proposals and listen constructively to ideas of others
- Makes compromises for the benefit of the group
- Can lead or follow
- Is a team player