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August, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In the 2017-18 school year, all middle school Science programs will be implementing an Honors Option. The Honors Option gives students the opportunity to learn more deeply about science concepts within their regular science classroom. All students are encouraged to complete Honors Option projects. Students who are identified as Intellectually Gifted (TAG) will have the Honors Option listed on their Personal Education Plan (PEP) as one option for enrichment.

Other content areas such as Language Arts, Math and Social Studies will implement Honors Options during the 2018-2019 school year. Each core subject area will ultimately have similar requirements for Honors Option and all projects will be the same at each of the Albany middle schools.

Each year, middle school Science classes are divided into 4-5 units of study, called bundles. There will be one Honors Option project offered for each bundle. Students will have an opportunity to work on the Honors Option project while other students are working on the regular classroom project. The intent is not to create a lot of extra work for the Honors Option, but since the project will go into more depth, some additional research and planning will be required. Expectations will be clearly communicated at the beginning of each unit bundle via the project scoring rubric.

To earn an academic "4", students must be "meeting" science assessments as well as complete a quality Honors Option project. If a student earns a "4" in every bundle, they will receive an "Honors Option" designation on their end-of-year report card and transcript. In science this will be the only way for students to earn an academic "4" on their report card. Although requirements for a "4" may look different in other content areas for the 2017-18 school year, we are striving to have more consistency in all subject areas and within each of the middle schools by the 2018-19 school year. Students may continue to earn a "4" in effort and citizenship.

Please contact your child's science teacher with any specific questions about the Honors Option requirements.

Sincerely,

Danielle Blackwell

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Secondary Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Coordinator