

Honors Project Overview

The Honors Project began at Prairie Creek over 15 years ago. It is the culminating project of a student's career here, evidence of what she has learned about "learning."

Honors Project is perhaps a misnomer; it is more an "Honors Process." Students begin by choosing a topic, designing guiding questions and finding a mentor. They then pursue their learning through interviews, experiments, reading, and other research. Finally, they write about their learning and share it in an oral and visual presentation. They also create a display that shares the process of their learning with the rest of the school community at our Honoring Fair.

The bulk of the project is completed outside of school with the support of a student's family and mentor. Teachers provide support through mini-lessons and progress check ins. Most of the skills such as question asking, note taking, organization and project development have been taught throughout the child's years at Prairie Creek. The Honors Project is meant to reflect that learning. Students may, however, need reinforcement as they try to use their skills independently.

The Honors Project is a chance for the Prairie Creek community to celebrate the work and gifts of each of our departing fifth graders. Honoring Night is the final event in the process. Each child's work is shared briefly and their talents extolled by their teachers and mentors. Many younger children come to the celebration and look forward to the night when it will be their turn to be honored. Honoring Night is perhaps the most important date on the Prairie Creek calendar.

Brief Outline of Final Expectations

Student will:

- Share learning in written form, including a bibliography of sources
- Prepare an oral presentation of learning with accompanying visuals
- Teach an aspect of the topic through having the audience do something
- Create a display of learning for the Honoring Fair (a chance for younger classes to see Honors Projects and ask questions of the authors)