

11th Grade AP and Honors Coursework List

Please review the descriptions of the following coursework BEFORE registering for a class. We want you to be successful in your educational pursuits, so consider your choices carefully. Don't overload yourself with too many advanced classes! Take note of the number of hours involved in each course. The AP/Honors contract must be signed by student and parent to be placed in the class(es). Students will not be able to change out of AP or Honors classes after the last day of the current year and must remain in the course for the entire upcoming school year unless an **"Action Plan for Success"** form is completed. The **"Action Plan for Success"** form will not be review until the end of the semester.

AP U.S. History

- Designed to give students a grounding in the subject matter of American history and in major interpretive questions that derive from the study of major themes in United States history
- Students will examine United States history problems and topics through specialized writings by historians and through primary source and supplementary readings
- Students will be given extensive practice in analyzing historical problems, collecting and sorting information, developing a thesis, and writing essays to communicate conclusions

AP Psychology

- Systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals
- Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology
- Learn how to analyze yourself and others
- Learn how to assess the principles of human development
- Learn how to incorporate the study of history and science to better understand genetics and the environment
- Over 90% pass rate in the last five years on the AP exam!
- Summer reading is 15% of first quarter grade
- 4-5 hours of weekly homework (occasional class time allowance for completion of homework)
- Tests every 7-9 days on each chapter
- Hands-on activities to guarantee success on test

AP European History

- Trace European History from 1450 to present time
- Explore the intellectual, cultural, social, political and economic history of Europe
- Experience the rigor and curriculum of a college level course
- Success in this course requires a love of history and reading mixed with commitment and hard work
- Homework will involve 1-2 hours of work most nights
- Class activities include lectures, class discussions, primary document analysis, debates, Socratic seminars, field trips, movie nights, student created presentations, and study groups
- Summer assignment includes 60 pages of reading, note-taking and an open-note quiz
- Join us on this enriching journey to gain insights into ourselves by studying those who came before us

AP English Language and Composition

- Designed to analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques
- Apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing
- Create and sustain arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experience
- Write for a variety of purposes
- Produce expository, analytical, and argumentative compositions that introduce a complex central idea and develop it with appropriate evidence drawn from primary and/or secondary sources, cogent explanations, and clear transitions
- Demonstrate understanding and mastery of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity in their own writings
- Demonstrate understanding of the conventions of citing primary and secondary sources
- Move effectively through the stages of the writing process, with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing, and review
- Write thoughtfully about their own process of composition
- Revise a work to make it suitable for a different audience
- Analyze image as "text"
- Students are expected to take the AP Language and Composition exam in May

AP Calculus 1 A/B

- Regular surprise quizzes (some are announced) and daily homework
- Must have passed Pre-Calculus Honors with an “A”, “B”, or a high “C”. For college preparatory Pre-Calculus, grades of an “A” or a high “B” is recommended
- Must take the AP Exam
- Many after school or Saturday school hours in the second semester for the preparation of the AP Exam (not required, but highly recommended)
- Must be willing to come in before school, after school or during lunch. This class will be very challenging, promoting critical thinking and analysis and may require that you seek additional help
- Needs highly intrinsic, motivated students
- Winter break homework

AP Calculus 2A/B BC

- “C” or better in Calculus 1B AP AB or Calculus 1B
- Designed for students who wish to earn college credit in Calculus by taking the Calculus BC Advanced Placement exam
- Designed for students who plan to major in mathematics, engineering, computer science, or a math related field

AP Biology 1

- College level Biology course taught in high school
- All students are expected to take the AP exam
- This course is organized into four major instructional areas: Molecules and Cells, Genetics, Organisms and Populations, and the Exam Review
- Each student and parent should not be surprised by course requirements that are in excess of what you would expect from an honors level course
- Requires extensive study time and labs that will, at times, start before the school day begins
- Material covered and its sequence, reflect the course outline suggested by the College Board
- Summer assignment includes the reading of 5 chapters with a test given on the first day of class

AP Environmental Science

- Recommended for science and non-science majors. Material covered is relevant to everyone
- Topics include ecology, waste, toxins, air pollution, water pollution, biodiversity, climate change, agriculture, population growth, and energy resources
- The purpose of this course is to identify environmental problems, evaluate associated risks, and examine solutions
- This is a rigorous and fast paced course covering a new chapter every 1 to 2 weeks
- Students should have a strong work ethic and be highly motivated
- Fieldtrips may be required. If a student is unable to attend a fieldtrip a make-up assignment of equal rigor will be provided
- Prerequisites include B or better in Biology and a C or better in Chemistry or an A in Oceanography with teacher recommendation
- Students are expected to take the College Board A.P. Exam in May

Chemistry 1 A/B Honors

- Covers the basic laboratory skills and techniques necessary to meet the prerequisite background for entering college chemistry
- Must have successfully completed higher level math courses
- Very detailed and moves at a faster pace than a general chemistry course
- Attendance is essential for success
- Reviewing of material assignments and completion of labs are required outside of the classroom
- Students are to actively participate in all aspects of the course, be able to work with others, be inquisitive and take ownership of their own learning experience

AP Chemistry

- Fast paced and designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course taken during the first year of college Attendance is essential for success
- Students are expected to have earned a least a "B" in Chemistry Honors or obtain a recommendation by their college preparatory Chemistry teacher
- Significant laboratory work will occur throughout the course. Standard college-level laboratory procedures and write-ups will be required. These will require 2-3 hours for write-up and completing the lab
- Outside class work and research will require at least 5 hours per week
- The required summer assignment covers a review of first year chemistry concepts and memorization of common ions

AP Physics 1

- Students should have a solid understanding of Algebra (solving an equation for a specific variable)
- Students will be applying trigonometric functions in problem solving
- Students will be required to understand concepts as well as formulas and calculations
- Students will cover some topics independently
- Students should have earned a “B” or better in Biology, Chemistry, Geometry and Pre-Calculus
- Students will need to spend at least 6 hours weekly on outside class work
- Students explore principles of Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. This course is based on six Big Ideas, which encompass course scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about the physical world

Spanish 3A-3B Honors

- Designed to prepare students for the rigor of the 4th year Advanced Placement Course
- Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are equally emphasized
- Grammatical skills and vocabulary development are enhanced through literature, compositions, reports, essays and debates
- Course is conducted exclusively in Spanish and is communication based

AP Spanish Language & Culture

- Fourth level of high school Spanish designed to meet the requirements of a third year college level Spanish class
- Extensive vocabulary, listening comprehension, reading, speaking and writing skills are emphasized in preparation for the AP exam
- Attendance is crucial as most assignments cannot be done at home and requires that students come in before or after school to make-up work
- Ability to think and converse in Spanish with ease
- Ability to write in Spanish with few spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors
- Strong work ethic, highly motivated and self-directed
- Non-native speaker must have a “B” or better in Spanish levels 1, 2 & 3
- Native speakers must have a “B” or better in Level 3 or a Spanish instructor recommendation

AP Spanish Literature & Culture

- A fourth year Spanish class that is the equivalent of a third year Spanish Literature class at the college level
- Must possess competency to read literary works in Spanish (essays, poetry, novels, dramas and short stories) and articulate ideas in well organized and developed essays
- Must analyze and critically comment on the form and content of the works orally in class as well as in compositions, utilizing appropriate advanced vocabulary and rhetorical terms
- Ability to converse and analyze in Spanish
- Strong work ethic and highly motivated
- Non-native speakers must have a “B” or better in AP Spanish course
- Native speakers must have a “B” or better in Spanish for Native Speakers, Level 3 or Spanish Language AP or recommendation from a Spanish instructor

AP Art

- Designed for the highly motivated and responsible student interested in the serious study of art
- Emphasis is placed on 24-30 works of original art work
- Must be willing to do art work at home as well as daily in class
- Develop personal content and style, generate original ideas, extend and refine knowledge of art principles of design
- Develop a portfolio to include Drawing portfolio, 2-D Design portfolio, or 3-D Design portfolio
- Required summer sketchbook assignment
- Students will submit artwork to the college board in May

AP Art History 1

- Designed to provide the same instruction as an introductory college course in art history
- Offers an aesthetic appreciation of architecture, sculpture, painting and other art forms within historical and cultural contexts
- Students examine major forms of artistic expression of the past and present as well as a variety of cultures in corresponding proportion to the AP Art History examination
- Students learn to look at works of art critically and to articulate what they see or experience
- Students will study all styles and methods of artistic production as they look at two- and three-dimensional art works, architecture, and other artifacts from the Paleolithic period through the present day
- The meaning behind the creation of works of art will be explored through examination of the historical, political, philosophical, religious, economic, social, and technical climate surrounding each period of production

AP Computer Science Principles

- Uses Python as a primary tool and incorporates multiple platforms and languages for computation
- The course aims to develop computational thinking
- Generates excitement about career paths that utilize computing
- Introduces professional tools that foster creativity and collaboration
- Students develop programming expertise and explore the workings of the internet
- Projects and problems include app development, visualization of data, cybersecurity, and simulation