12th 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 class for the entire upcoming school year unless an **"Action Plan for Success"** form is completed. The **"Action Plan for Success"** form will not be reviewed until the end of the semester.

AP Government & Politics US/Economic Honors

- To increase the understanding of the American political system, its framework, traditions and values
- Designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college course in U.S. government and politics
- Students will be given an analytical perspective on government and politics and the analysis of specific examples
- Course is divided between lecture and Socratic seminar
- Students are responsible for keeping up with events in the news which deals with the current political policies and events
- Other strategies will include critical writing assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects
- Course is taught on a college level. Students are expected to complete assigned readings
- Required summer reading prior to first day of class

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 Literature and Composition will emphasize

- close reading of literature (novels, drama and poetry in AP lit. and a focus on non-fiction for AP comp.)
- consideration of structure, style, themes figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone
- intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods
- a wide-range vocabulary used with denotative accuracy and connotative resourcefulness
- timed writing and analytical essays
- an outside reading assignment of 1000-1500 pages per semester
- a summer reading/writing assignment
- MLA or APA format
- reading and analyzing college level literature
- writing analytical essays at a college level
- homework which will average between four and six hours weekly

AP Calculus 1 AB

- 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 2 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 Statistics

- "B" or better in Pre-calculus or "C" or better in Pre-calculus 2 Honors
- Topics will include exploring data, planning a study, producing models using probability theory and simulation, and statistical inference-confirming models
- It is highly recommended that students have a Texas Instruments TI-83+ Silver Edition Calculator or any variety of Texas Instruments TI-84 Calculator

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 Drawing

- 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
- Signature by Mrs. Clark-Pruett is required.

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