

# Academic Diploma with Honors

Students are eligible to receive a seal on diploma signifying Honors Diploma. Students qualify at the end of SEVEN (7) Semesters for an Honors Diploma. Students should plan ahead with their schedule if they plan to qualify for the Honors Diploma.

<b>High School Academic Diploma with Honors</b> <i>Students need to fulfill only 6 of the following 7 criteria</i>	
Subject	Criteria
<b>Mathematics</b>	4 units, including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II or equivalent and a higher level elective (Statistics, Algebra III, Pre-Calculus, Calculus)
<b>Science</b>	4 units, including chemistry, physics or anatomy
<b>Social Studies</b>	4 units including World History, U. S. History, Government, and 1 elective in Social Studies
<b>Foreign Language</b>	3 units of one language or 2 units each of 2 languages
<b>Fine Arts</b>	1 unit, must count as a High School credit, JH band/choir does not meet this requirement
<b>Grade Point Average</b>	<b>3.5 on 4.0 Scale</b>
<b>ACT/SAT (Excluding scores from writing sections)*</b>	<b>27 or Higher/1280 or Higher</b>

**Math** – Students must take algebra I, geometry, algebra II (or equivalent), and one other higher level course OR a four-course sequence that contains equivalent or higher content.

**Science** – Advanced science refers to courses that are inquiry based with laboratory experiences. They must align with the grades 11/12 standards (or above) or with an Advanced Placement science course or entry-level college course (clearly preparing students for a college freshman-level science class, such as anatomy, botany or astronomy).

**Social Studies** – Students may get credit for both an American history course and/or the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate American history course (same for government and world history). If a district counts financial literacy as a social studies course, students can use it as an elective to meet the requirement. If the district counts financial literacy as a family consumer science or business education elective, it does not count.

**World Language** – Only credits from courses that are sequential and proficiency based (e.g., Spanish levels I, II, III or German I and II and French I and II) fulfill the honors diploma requirement. Sequential classical (e.g., Latin, Ancient Greek) and visual (e.g., American Sign Language) languages DO fulfill the honors diploma requirement. No units from language courses coded as “Foreign Language Exploratory” can count toward the honors diploma requirement. No units from culture-based courses can count toward the honors diploma requirements.

If a student opts to complete this criterion by taking *two units each of two world languages studied*, a student must complete a total of four world language units. This means two sequential, proficiency-based units in two different languages.

**Fine Arts** – Courses taken in middle school may meet the general graduation requirement of two semesters of fine arts, but a course must count for high school credit (be high school level work or above) to count for the honors diploma. Dance, drama/theatre, music and visual art courses all count as fine arts courses.

**GPA** – GPAs must be calculated on an unweighted 4.0 scale.

**ACT and SAT score requirements** – Students must have scores of 27 or higher on the ACT or 1280 or higher on the 2016 SAT or their equivalents on previous or future versions of the tests.