

# 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Program Planning Resources

# Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade FAQ

- **How many credits does my student need?**
  - Students will earn 6.75 credits in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. For a standard diploma students need 27.25 credits to graduate
  - Students earn .50 credits of their 1 credit Physical Education requirement in 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Do 9<sup>th</sup> Grade classes appear on high school transcripts?**
  - Yes, 9<sup>th</sup> grade is the first year of high school even though it is housed in the middle school building, and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes are designed with a high school level of rigor. These classes do appear on the transcript for Central Bucks East
- **Will my student still play sports for Holicong?**
  - No. All sports teams for grades 9 – 12 are at East. However, East does offer the following 9th grade Freshman team sports:
    - Fall: Field Hockey & Football, Boys & Girls Soccer
    - Winter: Boys & Girls Basketball
    - Spring: Baseball & Softball

# Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade FAQ

- What electives can my student take in 9<sup>th</sup> grade?
  - Non performing music students will take .50 credits of PE/Health. In addition, they will have their choice of 4 electives in the following areas: Art, Technology & Engineering Education, FCS, and Integrated Tech
  - Performing Music students will take .50 credits of their performing music class, .50 credits of PE/Health and 2 electives in the following areas: Art, Technology & Engineering Education, FCS, and Integrated Tech
- Are Honors classes “weighted” in 9<sup>th</sup> grade?
  - Yes. 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes are weighted. The curriculum is different between academic and honors to justify the weighting of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade course. Even though the 9<sup>th</sup> grade courses are weighted, in speaking with the high school counselors, they report admissions offices strip away “weighted” GPAs to make everyone equal. Colleges are more interested in seeing students that take the most challenging curriculum available to them that they can succeed in.

# Honors vs. Academic classes

- Available in English, Science, Social Studies, and Math
- Factors in Teacher Recommendation:
  - Class grades (both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)
  - PSSA scores (both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Specific skills (i.e. Writing)
  - Interest & motivation in subject area
  - Work habits

# Honors English

## Assessment –

- Core 1: Includes specific grammatical structures that enhance style in personal narrative
- Core 2: Required research components
- Revised rubrics

## Writing –

- **Minimum of six required writing pieces, including two new required on-demand argument writing pieces**
- Additional research
- Additional grammar instruction to enhance style (new workbook)

## Reading –

- Whole Novel Approach
- **Minimum of 4 more complex texts**
- *The Illustrated Man, Lord of the Flies, A Separate Peace*

# Honors Social Studies

- **Higher expectation every day (more complex examples and applications, more complex formative and summative assessment)**
- Mid-Term
- Different Final Exam
- Different Core Assessments
- Additional Content
- **More reading and writing**
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Book list (students required to choose one to read)
- More use of primary source documents
- More analysis, synthesis, interpretation, conceptual thinking and less memorization
- Students need to realize there is a higher expectation for deeper academic conversations with Socratic Circles, debates, using more outside research with evidence
- Different writing assessments- DBQ, pulling together to synthesize

# Honors Science

- Each unit of study will include:
  - Greater depth of content.
  - Different learning experiences.
  - Different (open inquiry) approach to laboratory investigations.
  - **Challenging reading assignments from scientific journals.**
- The course will include:
  - A nonfiction companion text.
  - Various research components.
  - Different unit assessments and core performance assessments.

# Questions?

For more information please reach out your child's School Counselor:

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