

Honors for Math, English, Social Studies and Science

Parent Council Meeting

January 19, 2017

Honors Alg 2/Trig vs. Alg 2/Trig

- 1) Higher expectation every day (more complex examples and applications, more complex formative and summative assessment)
- 2) Different Final Exams
- 3) Different Core Assessments
- 4) Less time spent on review content at beginning of course (still review key concepts in preparation for year)
- 5) Additional Content

Matrices Unit: Additional Topics

Matrix Operations, Multiplying Matrices, Determinants and Cramer's Rule, Identity and Inverse Matrices, Solving Systems Using Inverse Matrices

- 5) Different Prerequisite
 - a) 2900: Honors Algebra 2/Trig (MS course) – (2800) Geometry/Trig, B- (80%) or better or teacher recommendation
 - b) 2521 Honors Algebra 2/Trig (HS course) – (2901 or 2122) Geometry/Trig, A- (90%) or better and teacher recommendation
 - c) 2520: Algebra 2/Trig – (2901 or 2122) Geometry/Trig, C- (70%) or better or teacher recommendation

9th Grade Honors English

0900 Honors English 9

Description:

- The Honors English 9 course integrates reading, writing, researching, speaking, and thinking skills at an accelerated pace. Avid readers will read and analyze more complex texts in this course to seek and gain a deeper understanding of the craft of literature by examining author's purpose and craft as well as the use of various literary devices across literary genres. Students will analyze text for evidence of specific literary elements, namely theme, point of view, and indirect characterization. Students seeking to advance the impact of their writing will develop literary analysis skills, build effective arguments, and experiment more deeply with sophisticated narrative writing techniques. A core of classic literature is balanced with contemporary and culturally diverse fiction and nonfiction selections in order to better understand how social, historical, political, cultural, and/or geographical contexts influence writing. Students in this course will seek and encounter challenging texts, discussions, and writing requirements that require deeper research and analytical skills.
- Honors weighted-grade course for 0900

9th Grade 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*

9th Grade Honors Social Studies

Description: United States History will cover the content of American history between 1890 to the present. Topics will follow those in Academic United States History.

- This course is designed for students who have **excelled** in social studies content and skills **as well as language arts skills**. Students will be expected to complete significantly **more reading, informative and persuasive writing, and research projects than in the standard course**. Students will be **required to debate and discuss historical topics based on completed outside research**. Some of the educational materials will be on a higher level than those used in the standard course.
- **Prerequisite:** Advanced Social Studies 8, A or B or teacher recommendation; Academic Social Studies 8, A or A- or teacher recommendation.
- **Advanced English 8, A or B or teacher recommendation; Academic English 8, A or A- or teacher recommendation.**

9th Grade Honors Social Studies

- Higher expectation every day (more complex examples and applications, more complex formative and summative assessment)
- New Mid-Term
- Different Final Exam
- Different Core Assessments
- Additional Content
- More reading and writing
- 9th 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



9th Grade 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.



Recommendation Guidelines

Prerequisite:

- Advanced Science 8

A- or better or teacher recommendation.

- Academic Science 8

A or teacher recommendation.

Other criteria for teachers to consider:

- Students should currently be in Alg 1B or geometry.
- Students should currently be in Advanced English or have an A in Academic English.
- Students should have scored proficient or advanced on their latest PSSA exams in ELA and Math.
- Students should have scored 80% or above on district science assessments on first attempt.



Characteristics of ‘Honors’ Science Students

- are passionate about science.
- ask interesting questions that extend what we are learning.
- are curious about what is going on in science now and what science will bring to the future.
- extend their interest beyond the classroom.
- answer questions thoughtfully and provide detailed responses.
- are eager to share their thoughts and participate frequently.
- complete their homework promptly and thoroughly.
- are interested in career opportunities in the field of science.
- understand the importance of the history of science.
- offer personal connections to what they are learning and share those experiences.
- have strong math and abstract thinking skills.
- will take initiative for their own learning.
- follow safe and methodical practices in the laboratory.