

What to consider when choosing honors and AP courses:

Successful students in honors and AP courses generally have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above and have **earned A's or B's in previous coursework in that area. Use caution when registering for multiple honors courses;** keep in mind your other commitments such as family responsibilities, sports, activities, and, most importantly, your health! Registration for honors courses is final.

You may not drop an honors class.

<p align="center">English 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-trimester course • Teaches required Minnesota State Language Arts Standards in the areas of reading (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama), writing, oral communication, and research • Fulfills 9th grade English requirement needed to graduate • Includes a requirement for independent reading • Homework is a mixture of reading, written responses to reading, writing process work (prewriting, drafting, revising, polishing), and occasional projects 	<p align="center">English 9 – Honors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-trimester course • Teaches required Minnesota State Language Arts Standards in the areas of reading (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama), writing, oral communication, and research • Includes a structured weekly vocabulary development program • Includes a requirement for independent reading • Fulfills 9th grade English requirement needed to graduate and prepares students to be successful in honors-level classes in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade • Homework is a mixture of reading, written responses to reading, writing process work (prewriting, drafting, revising, polishing), and occasional projects • Recommended only for the self-motivated student who wants a challenge, is willing to do a significant amount of independent work, and likes to read and write • Includes challenging texts – student should be able to read at or above grade level. Strong time-management skills very helpful.
<p align="center">Physical Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaches all MN State Physical Science 9 Standards, with hands-on lab experiments • Two-trimester course • Required course to graduate and to take further courses in science at the high school • Emphasizes concepts in physical science • Homework is a mixture of problems and questions 	<p align="center">Physical Science – Honors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaches all MN State Physical Science 9 Standards, with hands-on lab experiments. Two-trimester course • Fulfills Physical Science requirement needed to graduate and to take further courses in science at the high school • Must have had success in Middle School Algebra to enroll in the course • Emphasizes concepts in physical science at an advanced pace and further depth • Recommended only for the self-motivated student who has good problem solving skills and has shown a willingness to participate in his/her own learning. Homework is a mixture of problems and questions with additional readings and reflections • A research project (district required) must be completed and must be presented in a public forum (often the STEM fair)
<p align="center">Social Studies - Civics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaches required MN State Social Studies Standards in the areas of time, continuity and change, civic ideals and practices, individuals, groups and institutions, power, authority and governance • One-trimester course • Fulfills 9th grade Social Studies requirement needed to graduate • Homework is a mixture of reading, written responses to reading, and occasional projects <p align="center">Human Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-trimester course • Fulfills 9th grade Social Studies requirement needed to graduate • Instructional Focus: Use of maps, charts, Geographic Information Systems, population pyramids <p>Major Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review locations of physical features, climatic regions and cultural icons • Practice reading maps and charts. • Types of maps, when to use and how to analyze • Effects of migration and population countries and cultures • Types of boundaries and governments • Global climate changes • Human effects on the environment 	<p align="center">Social Studies - Civics- Honors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaches required MN State Social Studies Standards in the areas of time, continuity and change, civic ideals and practices, individuals, groups and institutions, power, authority and governance. • One-trimester course • Fulfills 9th grade Social Studies requirement needed to graduate • Prepares students for AP, CIS courses in grades 10, 11, and 12 • Homework is a mixture of reading, written responses to reading, research and paper writing and projects • Independent reading of supplemental novels and primary source documents required • Recommended for the highly motivated student who wants a challenge, is willing to complete significant amount of independent work, and enjoys the study of history and social sciences • Active participation is part of the daily routine and strong verbal skills are helpful • Students should be able to read at or above grade level; Effective time-management skills are necessary <p align="center">Advanced Placement (AP) Geography ~ 2 trimesters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-trimester course • Fulfills 9th grade Social Studies requirement needed to graduate • Recommended for the highly motivated student who wants a challenge, is willing to complete significant amount of independent work, and enjoys the study of history and social sciences • Students should be able to read at or above grade level; Effective time-management skills are necessary <p>Major Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface • Employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences • Learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications • Interpret maps and analyze geospatial data • Understand and explain the implications of associations and networks among phenomena in places. • Recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes at different scales of analysis. • Define regions and evaluate the regionalization process. Characterize and analyze changing interconnections among places.