

Freshmen Honors Course Guidance and Placement

Honors English

Although honors and on-level 9th grade courses cover the same general material, the pace and depth vary considerably. Students in honors, for example, are expected to be self-directed and should be able to complete multi-step assignments. Throughout the year, honors students will be expected to read and write in greater depth and length. In addition, honors students are expected to enter the course with grade-appropriate grammatical and subject knowledge; for example, students should be able to interpret literary elements (setting, symbolism, character, etc.) and execute basic conceptual frameworks like comparison-contrast and cause-effect.

Honors Civics

An Honors 9 social studies student should be inquisitive in academic pursuits, exhibit a strong-willed pursuit of academic excellence and maintain positive classroom interactions. In order to be successful, students should bring to the honors course a sense of personal responsibility and good judgment. The same material is covered, just in greater depth. Above all else, an Honors 9 student must be motivated to learn. The student must possess a desire to excel as a learner and achieve goals that range beyond the boundaries of non-honors classes.

Honors Earth Science

Here at EHS we offer two mainstream courses for the 9th grader. For the student who is on the advanced math track or has a high aptitude or passion for the sciences, we highly recommend taking the Honors Earth Science course. This course offers more opportunities for students to think critically and independently than the non-honors course. There are many collaborative opportunities for honors students to interact with their peers in both discussions and labs, but much of the focus is done independently. The standards covered are the same for both Earth Science classes, but at a deeper, more analytical level in the honors course. The workload for the honors course is more intense as well, usually 3-5 days of homework a week, rather than 1-3 for the non-honors course.

Math Honors Placements

Students will take their next math class based on the Scope and Sequence of ISD 196. Students currently enrolled in Accelerated Intermediate Algebra at their middle school will be placed in Honors Geometry at EHS. Students currently enrolled in Honors Geometry at their middle schools will be enrolled in Honors Algebra 2. UMTYMP students interested in returning to EHS math should contact Ms. Gillen, the math chairperson at EHS. Students wanting to be in Honors math at EHS and currently not attending an ISD 196 school will take a placement test in May to determine placement in the appropriate level. Any student wishing to leave honors math may certainly do so during registration.

Resources

English Department Chair: Noah Mass – noah.mass@district196.org.

Social Studies Department Chair: Todd Carlson – todd.carlson@district196.org

Science Department Chair: Kevin Dirksen - kevin.dirksen@district196.org.

Math Department Chair: Kathy Gillen – katherine.gillen@district196.org