



Highland High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Advanced Placement (AP) 9th/10th Grade Honors Program

What is the 9th/10th Grade Honors Program?

The new honors program at Highland High School is an extension of the original Pre-IB program and has been designed to meet the needs of a larger group of freshman and sophomore students who are interested in pursuing honors/college prep level curriculum. The proposed course of study in the 9th and 10th grade will prepare the students to enter either the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program or the Advanced Placement (AP) Program for their Junior and Senior years.

Why choose the 9th/10th Grade Honors Program?

One of the true measures of a student's potential for success in college is the challenge of the academic courses that a student pursues during high school. It is true that grade point average, SAT scores and class rank at graduation will be scrutinized when students apply for college, but the *key* contributing factor that is tied to their acceptance and has a major impact on their success is the rigor of the high school coursework they completed. Both the IB and AP Programs challenge the students to develop a dedication and maturity that will make the transition to college a smooth process.

The 9th/10th Grade Honors Program will provide a curriculum that will not only address the state standards but will also prepare the students for the rigors of the IB or AP Programs. A successful four years in a combination of these high level academic programs will help the students develop study skills, effective time management techniques, and a strong positive attitude toward education.

In light of the economic issues of the times and the negative impact on the state university systems, it is more important than ever that students who wish to attend a four year school upon high school graduation avail themselves of all opportunities to pursue the most rigorous course of study possible. Participation in the 9th/10th Grade Honors Program will ensure that your student has that opportunity.

Early in the spring semester of their sophomore year all students in the Honors Program will attend an assembly that will lay out their choices for their junior and senior years. In addition to the student assembly there will also be several parent information nights to address any questions and concerns. At that time more definitive information on the IB and AP programs will be provided. In conjunction with the general meeting each student will meet with one or more IB/AP staff members to finalize their program choice.

How do I become a part of the 9th/10th Grade Honors Program?

Participation in the Honors Program will require the completion of an Admissions Packet that will be available in February. The packet will include an application, letter of recommendation form (to be completed by someone at the student's middle school), and an expectations contract. The student will also be required to include a copy of their first semester report card and a copy of their state test (STAR) results from 7th grade. In addition to the completed application packet the student will be required to take a Language Arts test that includes both comprehension and writing components and a math placement test (dates to be announced).

How do IB and AP fit into this program?

The new Honors Program for 9th and 10th graders is replacing the Pre-IB program and is designed with both IB and AP in mind. The IB program is still a junior and senior year program that is definitely an option and is an excellent course of study for those students that want to challenge themselves with a rigorous well rounded curriculum. For those that are more interested in choosing individual classes the AP program may be the appropriate choice, providing the opportunity for advanced students to focus on specific subjects. Like IB, AP classes also can offer students the opportunity to earn college credit for classes taken in high school. Information about both programs will be presented at the parent meetings that will be held in early February.

Proposed schedules for 9th and 10 grade:

The purpose of the proposed class schedules is to insure that the students in the honors program are prepared to be successful in either the IB or AP programs. It will also provide a rigorous set of classes for their transcript.

9th Grade Proposed Schedule	10th Grade Proposed Schedule
<i>English 9 Honors</i>	<i>English 10 Honors</i>
<i>Biology Honors or Biology</i>	<i>Chemistry Honors or Chemistry</i>
<i>AP European History, AP World History, or World History</i>	<i>AP US History or US History</i>
<i>Spanish 1 Honors or Spanish 1 or Latin 1 Honors</i>	<i>Spanish 2 Honors or Spanish 2 or Latin 2 Honors</i>
<i>Algebra 2 or Algebra 1</i>	<i>Placement depends upon prior level</i>
<i>PE 1</i>	<i>PE 2</i>
<i>Healthful Living and Art will be addressed in the 9th and/or 10th grade. Options may include online courses and/or independent study. AVID students will adjust these proposed schedules to include AVID requirements</i>	

For further information or questions:

Parent nights will be Tuesday 2 February and Thursday 4 February in the Highland Theater at 6:00 PM. Application packets will be available at both meetings as will information on the English and Math test dates.

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