

## Course Descriptions and Expectations for EDHS Honors Courses

Golden Hawks,

The purpose of this packet is to help students and their families understand the expectations, time commitment, and rigor of our Honors course offerings. It is our sincere hope that all students select a course of study that is as challenging as they can handle. Aligned with that purpose, we feel it is tremendously beneficial for students to have as much information regarding their desired courses as possible.

Given that our Honors courses represent among the most academically rigorous available at EDHS, we provide this information to ensure that students and families can make informed and realistic decisions.

When selecting a course of study for the coming year, it is important for students to consider not only the classes which they want to take, but also extracurricular commitments such as athletics, activities, clubs, and/or after-school jobs. **Please note: \* indicates that the course requires summer homework.**

### ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

ELA 1 Honors*	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	Participation in text related and critical thinking analysis in small and whole class discussions on a daily basis. More in depth research projects than non-Honors ELA. More in depth, and complex writing prompts for Expository, Argumentative and Narrative essays. More complex reading selections. Prefix, Suffix, and Root vocabulary which is quizzed weekly and cumulatively in the first quarter. Advanced vocabulary terms and quizzes for reading selections for the remainder of the school year's last 3 quarters.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	Complete and submit homework on time. Be prepared ahead of time for requests on extensions. Most, if not all reading and detailed annotations of texts is conducted as homework in preparation for in depths book analysis in class. Time management and consistent attentiveness to class calendars are essential for success in homework and category.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Honors at the middle school level (not required). Complete the summer reading and summer project before the first day of school.
ELA 2 Honors*	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	Participation in rigorous class discussions on a daily basis, both small group and whole class. Unlike non-Honors, depth of analysis and pre-AP terminology is utilized and developed throughout the year. More complex reading selections with analytical and argumentative essays are offered in the ELA 2 Honors class.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	Submit homework in a thorough and timely manner to be prepared for class discussions of the literature. Time management of literary based long-term assignments is essential for success.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Most students will have taken ELA 1 Honors with a B or above. However, students completing ELA 1 with a B or above are encouraged to apply for the class if they and their teacher advocate they are prepared for the rigors of an Honors ELA course. Students must also complete the summer homework by the first day of class.

## LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

German 2H / German 3H	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	The pace is faster in the German honors classes and there is more depth into the subject matter. For example: Students will be required to learn supplemental vocabulary, and they will be expected to produce longer and more complex written responses. Homework and tests are longer and graded more strictly.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	Students are expected to put in extra effort to satisfy the extra demands of the honors curriculum. They are expected to be independent learners. Greater attention to detail will be required as the tests and quizzes are graded more strictly than the regular levels.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Students must complete German 1 or 2 and earn a grade of a "B" or higher both semesters ("A" is preferable). The German teacher will also sign the registration cards of students who are recommended for the Honors level.

Spanish 2H	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	I expect honors students to be self-motivated and passionate about the subject matter. They will be provided with structured, rigorous lessons on a daily basis. Honors students should be able to engage maturely in class discussions and interact with the content in a more in-depth manner than in a non honors class.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	I will expect students to review the notes we take in class at home on a daily basis. Students are also expected to use the resources I upload to Quizlet to practice vocabulary and grammar concepts daily (independently).
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Student must complete Spanish 1 and earn a grade of a "B" or higher both semesters ("A" is preferable). At the very least, they should enter Spanish 2 honors and be able to conjugate present tense verbs.

Spanish 3H*	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	The pace is faster in Spanish 3 Honors. Students should be able to ask and answer complex questions, write simple compositions using various grammatical structures, and read and comprehend short simple stories in Spanish. Honor students should be able to engage maturely in a class discussions.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	Students are expected to speak Spanish during class. The use of English is kept to a minimum. Homework and tests are longer and graded more strictly.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Students must complete Spanish 2 or 2 Honors and earn a grade of a "B" or higher both semesters ("A " is preferable). Complete a summer homework packet before the first day of school.

# MATHEMATICS

Honors Geometry	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	This course covers topics within Euclidean Geometry. The honors course goes in depth and incorporates group activities along with mini-projects to help students understand the applications of the concepts. The course is much more rigorous than the traditional college prep course and with further depth on all concepts.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	Student will be expected to do homework every night and be diligent and organized with school work. Time management is essential for success.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Prior experience should be the prerequisites for the course (Alg I with teacher recommendation)

Honors Algebra 2	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	This course uses the same book as the Algebra 2 college prep course; however, there are concepts that are covered in honors that are not covered in Algebra 2. Material is covered in further depth than the college prep course. Daily note-taking and organization is imperative for success. Students should be ready to ask questions, be involved in class discussions and explorations, think critically, and use mathematical reasoning to solve real-life situations. Students will work in pairs/groups.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	The student will be expected to complete 45 minutes of homework every night and review class notes for understanding. The student should go over problems/concepts from previous assignments to ensure understanding. Reviewing material from previous chapters will help retain critical math skills.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	The student should have either successfully passed honors Geometry or earned an A in Geometry and received a recommendation from his/her teacher. The student should be highly confident in his/her Algebra 1 skills.

Honors Pre-Calculus	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	This course uses the same book as the Pre-Calculus college prep course; however, there are concepts that are covered in honors that are not covered in the college prep course. Material is covered in further depth than the college prep course. Daily note-taking and organization is imperative for success. Students should be ready to ask questions, be involved in class discussions and explorations, think critically, and use mathematical reasoning to solve real-life situations. Students will work in pairs/groups.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	The student will be expected to complete 45 minutes of homework every night and review class notes for understanding. The student should go over problems/concepts from previous assignments to ensure understanding. Reviewing material from previous chapters will help retain critical math skills.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Students should have successfully passed honors Algebra 2 or earned an A in Algebra 2 and a recommendation from his/her teacher. The student should be highly confident in his/her skills learned in the previous three courses.

## SCIENCE

Honors Biology	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	Students are expected to work hard and put in the effort required to develop a deep understanding of the subject matter. Students will need to think critically in order to make connections between different topics of study and should be able to engage maturely in class discussions. The Honors course dives more deeply into the subject matter than then non-Honors course and requires more in-depth analysis of the content.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	Students are expected to review their notes at least 15 minutes a day in order to have a firm understanding of the material. They must keep an organized binder with all their notes, assignments, labs, test scores, and journals. Because the course builds on previously covered units, students should continuously review old material as well as new units. Students should also use resources posted on Google Classroom in order to have the most success in this class.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Students must be concurrently enrolled in Geometry or a higher math class. Students must also have a positive recommendation from their 8th grade science teacher for this class.

Honors Chemistry*	
What should a student expect to encounter in your Honors course during class time? Expectations? Rigor? Difference between your course and non-Honors?	This accelerated, college-prep course includes a study of atomic structure, gases, liquids and solids, solutions, oxidation/reduction, modern atomic theory, acids and bases, chemical equilibrium, nuclear chemistry, and a few other topics as well! Most significantly, our course presents many intriguing, abstract, far-reaching principles about how the natural world behaves on the microscopic level. The honors course will place increased emphasis on mathematical reasoning, numerical analysis, abstract thinking, and will have an increased focus on laboratory work as compared to the non-honors chemistry curriculum.
What will a student be expected to do outside of class in order to be successful in your Honors course?	Students will be expected to complete nightly homework, including practice, problem solving, lab reports, and other activities that support understanding. Time management and diligence are critical for success.
What classes or experience should a student have prior to choosing to take your Honors course?	Concurrent enrollment in Honors Algebra II or Algebra II is highly recommended. A strong foundation in algebraic problem-solving has high correlation with success in Honors Chemistry. Students should also have successfully completed Honors Biology (or Biology with teacher recommendation).