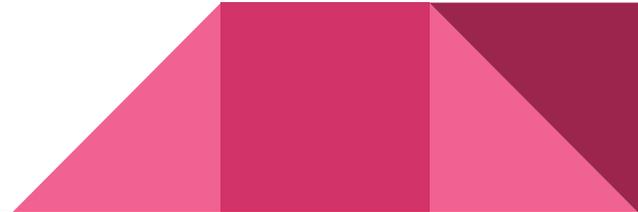




# Differences in Levels of Rigor

# What are the general differences between standard, honors (HN) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses?

- Standard - grade level class with no GPA boost (i.e. English 9, Chemistry, US-VA Hist, etc)
- Honors - faster pace; more in depth curriculum; .5 GPA boost
- AP - most rigorous; equivalent to college level; 1.0 GPA boost





# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Standard	Honors	AP (11-12th grades)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some full texts, some adapted</li> <li>● More reading and homework done in class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reads full texts of all texts</li> <li>● More analysis/evaluation done in class and homework/reading at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Purpose of the class is to prepare students to take the AP exam</li> <li>● Study advanced composition and analysis that is equivalent to an intro college course</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Typical outside commitment is 1-2 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commitment of 2-3 hours</li> <li>● More independent and faster pace</li> <li>● Good for students who are self-motivated, organized and have good reading and writing skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Majority of reading and homework will be outside of class</li> <li>● AP courses have timed writings to go along with the AP exam</li> </ul>



# HISTORY DEPARTMENT CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Standard	Honors	AP
Grade level pacing and analysis of information. Some time may be allotted for in class assignments	Faster pace of content, more time commitment outside of class than standard course	Preparation for the AP exams. More in depth reading, writing & analysis of texts & information. Majority assignments are done outside of class time

### **Standard vs. AP Psychology:**

Standard & AP cover roughly the same concepts. AP psych is much more rigorous and prepares students for the AP exam. AP will have more tests and quizzes while standard psychology will focus on content in a lower stress environment

*AP Psych has a 1.0 boost and if you pass the AP exam you can earn credit from most universities*





# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CLASS EXPECTATIONS

# Biology & Chemistry

<b>Biology</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
<p><b>HN</b> - students are often successful in Biology HN if they did well on their middle school science fair projects. Biology HN will come with a science fair component</p>	<p><b>HN</b> - students <b>MUST</b> either be currently enrolled in Algebra 2, or have already passed Algebra 2</p>
<p><b>AP Biology</b> - most students that are successful earned an A in Biology and Chemistry. Students must have strong study habits and attend class regularly. There is also a lot of reading in the course <i>*Prerequisite - passed Algebra 2</i></p>	<p><b>AP Chemistry</b> - regular attendance is required and students must have strong math skills. The course requires a lot of time to spent on it outside of school <i>*Prerequisite - passed Algebra 2</i> <i>*Recommended Corequisites - Physics AND Precalc</i></p>

# Geosystems and Physics

Geosystems	Physics
<b>HN</b> - often successful if they received a B or higher in their previous science and math classes	<b>HN</b> - students are often successful if they passed Bio & Chem with an A and have strong math grades <i>*Science fair participation is required</i> <i>*Math corequisite is Pre-Calc or higher</i>
Team taught and self contained (small group) sections are offered for special education students who need extra support <i>(case managers will discuss this w/ students)</i>	<b>AP</b> - students that are successful often have passed Physics HN with an A. <i>*Math corequisite is AP Calculus AB</i>

## Additional notes:

- **If you are planning to go to college and major in science or math, you should take Physics**
- **Self motivation is VERY important for all science courses**

# Science Electives

<b>AP Environmental Science (APES)</b>	<b>Genetics and Biotech</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Students are often successful if they received an A in Bio and Chem or a B or higher in Bio HN &amp; Chem HN</li><li>● Regular attendance is critical</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Students are often successful if they received an A in Bio and Chem or a B or higher in Bio HN &amp; Chem HN</li><li>● Generally considered the most difficult science elective</li></ul>





# MATH DEPARTMENT CLASS EXPECTATIONS

# Math Sequencing

Students will take Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 before branching into other math class options.

- There are Part 1 level math courses available in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 in order to help students build a stronger foundation in the course (*these classes take up two periods*).
- Students also have the option of taking Alg Functions & Data Analysis (AFDA) BEFORE Algebra 2 to help bridge the gap in knowledge and understanding (doesn't have to be one or the other)
- It is not recommended to jump from a standard math class one year to an honors math class the next. Math is unique in that standard and honors math classes DO NOT cover the same content. Without taking honors before, students don't have the same foundation and often get lost quickly.
- That said, if you are interested in exploring the idea of jumping up to an honors math class next year without having taken an honors class this year then you MUST speak with your current math teacher about it before meeting with your counselor to sign up

# Math Sequencing cont.

- The math class options below are listed **in increasing order of rigor**.  
*(Note - students MUST complete Algebra 2 successfully before enrolling in any of these courses)*
    - Probability and Statistics
    - Trig and Discrete Math
    - Precalculus
  - Students cannot take Calculus without first taking Precalculus
  - Students in standard Precalculus CANNOT go to AP Calc BC without first taking AP Calc AB
  - AP Statistics can be taken concurrently with Precalculus
- 

# Notes regarding some non-core subject area electives:

- AP Computer Science, Adv Computer Science AB & Computer Systems are all advanced level courses that offer a 1.0 GPA boost
- Entrepreneurship offers dual enrollment credit and a 1.0 GPA boost
  - Students should see Ms. Treague or their counselor for instructions on how to complete the required steps for dual enrollment
- Animation is a computer science coding level class
- Digital Art 1 is a good starting point for those unsure about taking a more rigorous computer graphic design course such as Animation

## Misc. Reminders:

- When considering electives, please be mindful of the different levels of rigor and also the prerequisites needed to enroll in various courses
- Keep your graduation requirements in mind when choosing electives
  - *your counselor will review this with you when you have your advising meeting*
- If you wish to take a different level course than what was discussed with your teacher for that subject at your feedback meeting (ex. teacher suggests Pre-Calc and you want Pre-Calc HN) then you will be given a letter when you have your advising meeting with your counselor to take home to be signed by a parent approving the change
- **Schedule changes in the fall are difficult to accommodate and NOT guaranteed.** Please do not select classes now thinking you will just be able to change it in the fall if you want.