

# ***Godwin High School's Honors & Advanced Placement Course Descriptions 2012-2013***

Godwin High School is committed to providing an environment in which all students have equal access to all classes, including Honors and Advanced Placement classes. All classes will be open to all students who have taken the prerequisite courses, made an informed decision with the guidance of parent/guardian, and understand the course expectations. To assist you in your decision-making process, we have compiled this document to give as a reference you a clearer idea of the course descriptions and requirements.

We encourage all families to strongly consider the course descriptions, expected homework requirements, extra-curricular obligations, and suggested pre-requisites before enrolling in Honors or AP courses. High school counselors and administrators are available to discuss options with students and parents. Students and parents need to consider the total picture of the compilation of all courses together in addition to the student's extra-curricular involvements. Students and parents will need to sign an Honors/AP Commitment Form for each course at this level and submit these forms with the course selection sheet.

The content of AP courses is determined by the College Board. Honors courses are locally designed to challenge the student beyond the level offered in a college prep level course and, potentially, to prepare students for the rigor of future AP courses and exams. Students should consider that projects and exams may overlap and can result in work-load fluctuations. Summer work is often required for both levels.

The college admissions process is complex and fluid. Families should direct questions regarding the assignment of college credit for satisfactory scores on AP exams to: [www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy).

A request to drop an Honors/AP course will only be considered after October 15, 2012 and will be dependent upon available space in the requested course/level. Further, prior to making such a request, a student is expected to seek additional assistance from the teacher.

## **HONORS & AP COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY CONTENT AREA: (All courses listed below are for weighted credit in GPA calculations)**

***Note:*** All elective level Honors & AP courses are offered based on student interest & teacher availability

### **ENGLISH:**

#### **Honors English 9:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-4 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - 8th grade Advanced English grade of A or B
  - Previous literature studies that present subject matter of a higher level of sophistication in both content and vocabulary
  - Teacher recommendation
- Course Description:
  - Analyze the meaning and effect of a passage related to grammar and syntax.
  - Write increasingly complex essays as a result of studying professional writers.
  - Understand use of rhetorical and literary devices to create meaning.
  - Greater focus on writing and grammatical instruction that reinforces knowledge in the parts of speech, sentence structure manipulation, abstract reasoning, and greater mastery of literary criticism.
  - Larger list and more rigor in reading selections for common studies novels (English 9A covers anywhere from five to seven literary works in a year)

### **Honors English 10:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-4 hours; heavier during extensive reading or writing assignments
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - English 9A: grade of A or B
  - English 9C: grade of A and teacher recommendation
- Course Description:
  - Honors English 10 focuses on the study of literature, writing, research, communication, vocabulary, and grammar through eight units: Short Stories, Literary Analysis, Full-Length Texts, Research, Non-Fiction/Persuasion, Poetry, Theatre, and Legends.
  - Each marking period students write up to two out-of-class literary analysis essays with an emphasis on content and style and two in-class, timed essays with an emphasis on content.
  - Active, literary-based participation is a requirement.

### **Honors English 11:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-4 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - 10th grade honors English: Grade of A or B
  - 10th grade English: Grade of A
- Course Description:
  - An advanced level study of American Literature and writing.
  - Read more complex, layered texts with tone shifts and multiple tones.
  - Connect tools of persuasion to the meaning of a work as a whole.
  - Develop a distinct voice as a writer by choosing sentence structures, details, etc.
  - SOL English End-of-Course Reading, Literature, and Research Test with the following objectives:
    - Identify prevalent themes, universal characters, and genres
      - in American literature.
    - Use the tools of rhetoric to develop persuasive writing.
    - Create an independent, documented, research project.

### **Advanced Placement English 11:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 4-5 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Honors English 10; grade of A or B
  - Strong desire to improve analytical writing skills
- Course Description:
  - Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is a class that focuses on the nuances of rhetorical analysis with an American Literature theme.
  - The course syllabus engages students in the practice of reading a variety of texts with the purpose of performing rhetorical and argumentative analysis on a bi-weekly schedule.
  - In addition students examine many of the seminal works from American Literature.
  - Projects combining the dual focus of the class are assigned each semester.

### **Honors English 12:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-4 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Successful completion of English 11 Honors
  - Teacher recommendation.
- Course Description:
  - This course surveys British literature from pre Anglo-Saxon times to the present.
  - Enriching the literature curriculum, teachers include parallel studies of English art, music, history, film and philosophy.
  - Students are expected to make literary connections with an emphasis on writing, discussion, and project based learning.

## **Advanced Placement English 12**

- Typical Hours of Homework a Week: 3-5 hours, depending on individual reading speed; additional time when out of class papers/projects are assigned
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - English 11 Honors **OR** English 11 AP Language and Composition
  - minimum 'B' average – recommended that this is prior to the Reading SOL being averaged into year-grade
  - ability to read for plot, character, conflict, theme, and basic literary devices independently
  - strong writing skills related to grammar, organization, style, and MLA guidelines for research
- Course Description:
  - Focus on the historical and philosophical influences on literature
  - Write pieces that require analysis, synthesis, and evaluation
  - Study British, American, and World Literature
  - Prepare for the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition Exam
  - Reading Expectations:
    - 2-3 full length texts (or comparable) for summer reading assignment
    - 2-3 full length novel/plays (or comparable) per marking period
    - focus on poetry
  - Writing Expectations:
    - paragraph response for bi-weekly vocabulary quiz of 25 words
    - Reader Response Journal – regular entries to correspond with reading assignments, including summer reading
    - 2-3 timed writing exercises per marking period
    - required revisions on some timed writings
    - 1 out of class essay (or comparable) per marking period – 5-7 pages in length; research required on 2 of 4 assignments

## **MATH:**

### **Honors Geometry:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-4 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Earned grade of 92 or higher (Semester and Final grades) in Algebra I
  - Recommendation of current Math Teacher
- Course Description:
  - Students are expected to be able to work independently and to have strong problem-solving skills.
  - Students will work on the following curriculum skills at an accelerated pace:
    - Understand the nature of axiomatic system through investigation
    - Use logical reasoning when comparing plane, solid, and coordinate geometries
    - Use deductive reasoning from given assumptions
    - Classify figures in terms of congruence and similarity
    - Use coordinate representatives of 2 and 3 dimensional figures
    - Use transformations to identify congruence and similar figures

### **Honors Algebra II:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-4 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Earned grade of 90 or higher (Semester and Final grades) in Algebra I
  - Earned grade of 85 or higher in Honors Geometry
  - Earned grade of 93 or higher in Geometry
  - Recommendation of current Math Teacher
- Course Description:
  - Students are expected to be able to work independently and to have strong problem-solving skills.
  - Students will work on the following curriculum skills at an accelerated pace:

- Solve linear equations, inequalities, and systems of equations
- Solve and graph quadratic equations and higher degree equations
- Explore patterns through finite differences and recursive formulas
- Investigate polynomials
- Discover matrices and how to apply them in problem solving
- Explore statistics and their applications
- Use a graphics calculator

### **Honors Math Analysis/Trigonometry:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-4 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Earned grade of 85 or higher in Honors Algebra II
  - Earned grade of 93 or higher in Algebra II
  - Earned grade of 85 or higher in Honors Algebra II
  - Recommendation of current Math Teacher
- Course Description:
  - Students are expected to be able to work independently and to have strong problem-solving skills.
  - Students will work on the following curriculum skills at an accelerated pace:
    - Explore polynomials, logarithms and exponential functions, matrices, theory of equations, curves, and conics
    - Investigate limits, derivatives, vectors, permutations, and probability
    - Solve and apply parametric and polar equations
    - Explore, graph, and apply trigonometric and circular functions
    - Solve trigonometric equations and verify trigonometric identities
    - Use a graphics calculator

### **AP Statistics:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-6 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Earned grade of 92 or higher (Semester and Final grades) in Honors Algebra II
  - Earned grade of 85 or higher (Semester and Final grades) in Math Analysis/Trigonometry
  - Recommendation of current Math Teacher
- Course Description:
  - AP Statistics is equivalent to a non-Calculus based, introductory-level college statistics course.
  - Students are expected to be able to work independently and to have strong problem-solving skills as the course requires a consistent level of abstract thinking and application of concepts.
  - The course is aligned with College Board's Advance Placement curriculum for AP Statistics and covers the topics of Data Analysis, Probability, Experimental Design, and Statistical Inference.

### **AP Calculus AB:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 5-6 hours
- Suggested prerequisite and academic achievement:
  - Earned grade of A or B in Math Analysis/Trigonometry
  - Recommendation of current Math Teacher
- Course Description:
  - Course is aligned with College Board's Advanced Placement curriculum.
  - Functions, limits, derivatives, integrals will be covered in depth.
  - Students are expected to take the AP exam at the conclusion of the course.

### **AP Calculus BC:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 5-7 hours
- Suggested prerequisite and academic achievement:
  - Earned a passing grade in AP Calculus AB or...
  - Recommendation of current Honors Pre-Calculus Teacher with an accompanying grade of B or better

- Course Description:
  - Course is aligned with College Board's Advanced Placement curriculum.
  - Also covers functions, limits, derivatives, integrals will be covered in depth, plus...
  - Parametric functions, vector functions, polar functions, sequences, and infinite series.
  - Students are expected to take the AP exam at the conclusion of the course.

## SCIENCE:

### **Honors Biology:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 2-3 hours
- Suggested prerequisite and academic achievement:
  - Success in previous honors or advanced level science courses
  - Strong interest in the sciences
  - Teacher recommendation
- Course Description: In addition to county curriculum and state standards of learning for all Biology students, Honors students are expected to:
  - Read for content in their textbooks, assigned journal articles, and other print sources. Students are responsible for the reading, which is then applied in problem solving activities.
  - Follow written instructions in labs and activities
  - Be able to conduct inquiry labs and written lab reports
  - Have some ability to apply concepts to problem solving. We help develop this skill, but students who are not independent thinkers, who look for the teacher to supply all the answers will struggle and be frustrated
  - Have advanced interpretive skills – including reading and analyzing data, graphs, charts and diagrams; mathematical models and some statistics; taking information from several sources and producing a logical connection between them.

### **AP Biology:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 5-7 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Previous success in honors or advanced level science courses
  - Significant interest in the sciences, particularly Biology
- Course Description:
  - AP Biology is an advanced elective science course that is taught at an accelerated pace.
  - AP Biology is intended to vastly expand the student's knowledge of the biological sciences, to hone his/her laboratory techniques and writing, and to develop skills, habits, and knowledge that will prepare the student for success at the University level and beyond.
  - Laboratory experiments will be a significant component of the course so that students can explore Biology in action. Many of the laboratory investigations involve the inquiry model, and students should expect to produce quality work without a step-by-step procedure.

### **Honors Chemistry:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3-5 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Completion of Honors Biology with a B or higher
  - Strong interest in the sciences
  - Teacher recommendation
  - Concurrent enrollment in Honors Algebra II or higher math
- Course Description:
  - Honors Chemistry requires a higher level of independent thinking and application of chemical concepts.
  - Laboratory exercises promote application of key concepts and require evaluation of chemical technique and calculations.
  - The classwork and homework as well as tests are more challenging in preparation for AP Chemistry. A greater proficiency in problem solving is required.

### **AP Chemistry:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 5-7 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Completion of Honors Chemistry with a B or higher
  - Strong interest in the sciences
  - Teacher recommendation
  - Concurrent enrollment in Trigonometry or higher math
- Course Description:
  - AP Chemistry is an equivalent college level course for mastery of basic inorganic chemistry concepts. This rigorous class is best suited for a student that is self-motivated and genuinely interested in chemistry.
  - Students should have strong mathematical foundations in algebra and problem solving skills. Students are expected to link material and concepts and have the ability to apply in another concept. All laboratory exercises support the current topics and required theory knowledge and mathematics for critique of technique and data analysis.
  - This class requires reading and problem sets outside of class and a minimum of 6 hours per week of study time.

### **Honors Physics:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 2-4 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Earned grade of A or B in Honors Chemistry or A in College Prep Chemistry.
  - Concurrent enrollment in Trigonometry, earned grade of A or B in Algebra I.
- Course Description:
  - Physics presents a complex study in the areas of force and motion, energy transformations, wave phenomena and electromagnetic spectrum, light, electricity, fields, and non-Newtonian physics.
  - The use of mathematics, including algebra and trigonometry, is important, but conceptual understanding of physical systems remains a primary concern. Limited instruction on algebraic techniques will be provided, and it is assumed that students will have a thorough understanding of algebra.
  - Laboratory experiments will be a significant component of the course so that students can experience the principles of physics in action. Many of the laboratory investigations involve the inquiry model, and students should expect to produce quality work without a step-by-step procedure.

### **AP Physics:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 5 -7 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Earned grade of A or B in Honors Physics or strong A in College Prep Physics.
  - Concurrent enrollment in Calculus (college prep or AP).
- Course Description:
  - This is a rigorous physics survey course integrating considerable depth of coverage in the topics.
  - AP Physics is equivalent to a Trig Based College Physics Course. Students are expected to come into the course with a strong foundation in Algebra and Trig, problem solving and data analysis skills. Students are routinely asked to solve problems and mathematically support their findings while applying knowledge accrued from basic science skills.
  - Students will be expected to apply concepts that are studied to new applications as well as applications seen in class. There is a strong emphasis on lab work in the class, including more challenging inquiry investigations.
  - AP Physics is a fast paced course where a new chapter is studied every week, as compared to Honors Physics where a single chapter is covered in 2-3 weeks.

### **AP Environmental Science:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 2-4 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Algebra 2
- Course Description:
  - AP Environmental Science is designed to explore the impact that humans have on the environment. With Ecology as the base discipline of study, students will explore how ecosystems are structured and function.

- Additionally, students will investigate how human actions are disrupting the function of these systems through the study of air, water, and soil pollution, agriculture, population growth, energy resources and consumption, and alternatives to environmental degradation.
- These topics will be explored via lecture, lab, and, project based assignments.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES/ SOCIAL SCIENCES:**

### **Honors World History and Geography I:**

- Typical hours of homework per week. 3 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - B or better in Honors English 8
  - B or better in Civics and Economics
- Course Description:
  - World History and Geography I is the Study the history of people, places, and religions from ancient times to 1500. Major areas of focus include Mesopotamia, ancient Greece and Rome, and the Middle Ages. Comparative studies include African, early American, and Asian contributions to civilization.
  - Students will be expected to work independently on assigned tasks, complete short-term projects as well as thesis driven papers using primary sources and analyze primary and secondary sources.

### **Honors World History and Geography II:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 3 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - B or better in Honors English 8 or 9
  - B or better in Honors or Accelerated WHGI
- Course Description:
  - World History and Geography II studies and explores people, places and religions from about 1500 to the present. The late Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation periods are analyzed. Comparatives studies of the empires in India, China, Japan, sub-Saharan Africa and Central America are included.
  - Students will be expected to work independently on assigned tasks, complete short-term projects as well as thesis driven papers using primary sources and analyze primary and secondary sources.

### **AP European History:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 6-7 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - B or better in Honors English 9
  - B or better in World Geography
- Course Description:
  - AP European History requires students to read and take notes.
  - Students should possess the ability to discuss the relevant events of modern European history from the Renaissance period to the fall of Communism.
  - Tests will resemble those of the AP Exam. Students are required to write essays discussing historical events. Some essays require the use of primary documents.
  - Students are exposed to the AP exam at the conclusion of the course.

### **AP US History:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 6-7 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - B or better in Honors English 10
  - B or better in World History I or II
- Course Description:
  - Advanced Placement United States History is a college level course for high school students. It is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to critically examine the issues and problems of American History and their implications.

- Students will learn to assess historical materials and evaluate the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. In order to prepare students for college level courses, they will be expected to read and learn the facts of history independently, decipher the material in primary sources, and apply their knowledge to expository and evaluative essays.
- Successful completion of the national AP U.S. History Exam may result in the awarding of college credit.

### **AP Government:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 4-5 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Prior AP experience and consistent grades of A's and B's in past social studies classes is strongly recommended
- Course Description:
  - The AP American Government course is focused around eight units: Foundations, Political Belief/Behavior, Parties & Interest Groups, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Civil Rights & Liberties, and Public Policy.
  - Each unit is designed to give students historical background, an understanding of general concepts and the opportunity to analyze key legislation and court cases.
  - Students will recognize the importance of the Constitution as it relates to ALL areas of their lives. Students will possess a deeper knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the American government in addition, politics and understand their role in the process.

### **AP Psychology:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 4-5 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - B or Higher in Previous Socials Studies Courses and English Classes
- Course Description:
  - The purpose of the AP course in Psychology is to introduce the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals.
  - Included is a consideration of the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology.
  - Students also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.
  - Students will perform psychological research and will be expected to work independently on various assignments during the course.
  - Successful completion of the national AP Psychology test may result in the awarding of college credit.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES:**

### **Honors German 4:**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 2-3 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Completing German 3 with a recommended (not required) overall grade of at least 80%.
- Course Description:
  - German 4 honors will be conducted completely in German and students will be expected to speak only German. Grades will be lowered for speaking in English.
  - Students will write essays of approximately 300 words and be expected to develop a single topic into essay format.
  - Students will develop complex dialogues using real-life situations and issues.
  - Students will read literature from well-known German authors.
  - Students will be expected to stay up-to-date with current event issues in the German-speaking countries. Cultural issues will be involved in many units throughout German 4.
  - Students will learn and utilize complex grammar structures.

## Honors French 4:

- Typical hours of homework: Usually, 20 minutes of written work nightly, in addition to 10-15 minutes of general study. Additional time is required for nights before assessments and writing assignments (approx. 3-4 hours).
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Must have completed French 3, with a recommended (not required) grade of a high C for the year.
- Course Description:
  - This course, conducted in French, provides the student a comprehensive review of essential grammar points of the French language, as well as a review of the verb tenses.
  - The course is taught thematically to introduce new vocabulary topics and uses authentic readings and music to promote cultural understanding of the similarities and differences between Francophone and American cultures.
  - This course will emphasize the use of language for active communication with the following objectives:
    - ability to understand spoken French in various conversational situations
    - development of a French vocabulary sufficiently ample for reading newspaper and magazine articles, literary texts, and other non-technical writings without dependence on a dictionary
    - ability to express oneself in French both in speech and in writing, accurately and resourcefully and with reasonable fluency

## Advanced Placement French 5:

- Typical hours of homework: Usually, 20 minutes of written work nightly, in addition to 10-15 minutes of general study. Additional time is required for nights before assessments and writing assignments (approx. 3-4 hours).
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Must have completed French 4, with a recommended (not required) grade of a high C for the year.
- Course Description: French V AP is a year-long course aimed at preparing students for the advanced placement examination while developing proficiency in the French language. Expectations in performance in this course are comparable to those of college students completing a third-year French language course. This course will emphasize the use of language for active communication with the following objectives:
  - understand the spoken language, both formally and informally, in conversations or narrations, in face-to-face situations, as well as in audio and video texts
  - synthesize vocabulary and idiomatic structures to understand reading in authentic texts such as newspapers, magazine articles, and literature with increasing ease and accuracy
  - express ideas accurately and fluently in writing using a variety of grammatical structures with proper agreement, using verb tenses and proper sequence, using correct mechanics, and superior language control
  - learn and apply a rich vocabulary of synonyms, antonyms, idiomatic phrases, and transitional expressions so that they can correctly apply these in written and spoken French
  - speak with fluency and accuracy in structure and syntax and with correct pronunciation and intonation
  - increase their knowledge and understanding of a variety of French and francophone cultural practices, perspectives, and products

## Advanced Placement Latin:

- Typical hours of homework: Usually, 20 minutes of written work nightly, in addition to 10-15 minutes of general study. Additional time is required for nights before assessments & writing assignments (approx. 3-4 hours).
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Must have completed Latin 3, with a recommended (not required) grade of a high C for the year.
- Course Description:
  - AP Latin strengthens your ability to read Latin prose and poetry with greater speed and comprehension. You will read selections from Vergil's epic poem, *Aeneid*, and selections from Caesar's *de bello Gallico* in English. You will also read sight passages from various authors.
  - The **primary goal** of the AP Latin course is to prepare you for the AP Exam in May. This is a 3-hour exam that tests your ability to read & interpret Latin prose and poetry. The first hour contains 50 multiple-choice questions about 4 different passages, each 10-12 lines long. One passage is from the AP syllabus; the other three are "sight" passages, similar to passages on the National Latin Exam and/or SAT Subject Test. Of the three sight passages, at least one will be prose, and at least one will be poetry. In the second and third hours you will write translations of 2 short passages from the syllabus (about 10 lines each), and write 2 essays – in English! - about Latin passages from the syllabus.

## **Honors Spanish 4:**

- Typical hours of homework: Usually homework is given with two or three days in advance of the due date. This way, students have the option to complete it in one day or complete it in small sections. Usually, students will spend one to one hour and a half weekly.
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Must have completed Spanish 3, with a recommended (not required) grade of a high C for the year.
- Course Description:
  - During the first semester, MP1 and MP2, Spanish 4 Honors presents a comprehensive review that will strengthen grammatical structures and thematic vocabulary acquired in the first three years of Spanish studying. Due to this review, the students feel very comfortable with their learning experience as they expand their vocabulary and engage in different activities not experienced in the previous years of studying the language
  - These activities, some individual, others with a partner, and others in groups of three or four, will integrate listening, reading, writing and speaking skills by using authentic sources such as online articles, podcasts, and videos to which a writing section or a class discussion in the target language follows.
  - One major project for each marking period will be created during class time and will allow the students to explore and expand their knowledge of Hispano- American culture.
  - During the second semester, MP3 and MP4, the course will expand the students' knowledge of Spanish by incorporating new grammatical structures, mainly new verb tenses, as the students continue to engage in a variety of activities that will improve their proficiency in the four language learning skills previously mentioned.
  - As in the first semester, students create one major project for each marking period during class time. By the end of Spanish 4 Honors, students are well prepared to continue studying Spanish by taking AP Spanish the following academic year or to continue at College level, entering a third or fourth semester course in Spanish.

## **AP Spanish 5:**

- Typical hours of homework: Usually homework is given with two or three days in advance of the due date. This way, students have the option to complete it in one day or complete it in small sections. Usually, students will spend one to one hour and a half weekly.
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Must have completed Spanish 4, with a recommended (not required) grade of a high C for the year.
- Course Description:
  - AP Spanish Language concentrates on developing the proficiency level acquired by the student in previous years of studying and on preparing the students to succeed in the AP Spanish Exam to be taken on May. It is a course that is taught 95% using the target language.
  - Daily the students engage in activities designed to integrate their language skills, listening, reading, writing and speaking, using authentic materials and sources ranging from literary selections to newspapers, magazines articles, online publications, podcasts and videos taken from the internet.
  - Conversational skills are developed by following discussions on any material listened to, written or read. Since the beginning of the academic year, students will practice for the AP exam format and they will keep a record in a log that specifies the type of the AP exam section practiced. This will give the students confidence with the format of the exam.
  - The course will review grammar as needed and will introduce new grammatical structures if necessary. It will expand vocabulary acquisition through the study of thematic units and through the vocabulary found in the reading and audio selections as well.
  - Previous cultural knowledge of the Hispano-American World is expanded through projects created during class time. Advance organizational and analytical strategies are taught to approach the formal writing and formal oral sections of the AP Spanish Exam.
  - Every marking period students work on a portfolio in the classroom that includes the integration of skills through activities that simulate the AP Spanish Exam.

## **FINE ARTS:**

### **AP Art History**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 5-7 hours
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - Total GPA of 3.20 or higher
  - Committed to homework and school work
  - Previous academic studies that present subject matter of higher level of sophistication in core classes
  - Teacher recommendation
- Course Description:
  - To obtain an understanding of the creation and history of Art through images, discussions, readings, writings and evaluations
  - To develop an appreciation and understanding of creativity through visual Communication and to create a lifelong appreciation for the arts.
  - To obtain a working knowledge of the general development of Western and Non-western world civilizations and their value through art, history, cultures and philosophies
  - To develop interpretive reading skills, writing skills, creative and critical thinking skills within the context of this course which carries into other disciplines
  - To prepare students to perform successfully on the History of Art Advanced Placement Examination
  - To prepare students for the rigor of higher education and experience the personal responsibilities of education beyond high school

### **AP Studio 2-D or 3-D**

- Typical hours of homework per week: 2-3 as needed
- Suggested prerequisite for either courses
  - Personal Portfolio review (No specific Art level must be completed to apply)
  - Gather and create works of art which will be submitted into an electronic portfolio for AP College Board
- Course Description
  - Works of art may be used from previous art classes or classes being taken during the year of submission
  - Create or gather up to 10 works in a focused concentration
  - Create or gather up to 8 works as an example of the students creativity
  - Gather 5 works to show Quality of various techniques in art
  - Most of the work is done in class as well as home if needed

### **Honors Choir (Madrigals)**

- Typical number of homework/rehearsal per week: 1 – 2 hours; Typical number of concerts per month: 3 – 4
- Suggested prerequisite courses, academic, and vocal achievement
  - Successfully passed the audition which is held in January of the previous school year
  - Successful achievement in Mixed Select Choir, Debut Show Choir, Select Female Chorus, or Treble Select Choir
  - Earn 92 or higher on Vocal Tests in the aforementioned ensembles
  - Knowledge of solfeggio
- Course Description
  - Students will work on college-level choral literature (grades V and VI in the VCDA Literature Manual) and work on advanced musical concepts and artistry.
  - Students will become capable sight readers on solfeggio
  - Students are expected to work as a group to achieve a common musical goal
  - Participation Expectations
    - District Choir Auditions, and participation, if selected
    - All Virginia Choir Auditions, and participation, if selected
    - Honors Choir Auditions (Seniors only), and participation, if selected
    - Spring Trip
    - Attendance at all Concerts, out of school rehearsals, Major School Assemblies, & Home Football Games
    - Major Project which will include the class choosing a piece, teaching it to themselves, and then performing it at the spring concert with student direction

## **TECHNICAL EDUCATION:**

### **Introduction to Engineering Honors**

- Typical hours of homework: 1 - 2 hours of work outside of class
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - n/a
- Course Description:
  - Students will explore engineering careers, history, practices, and concepts throughout the year.
  - This class focuses on using STEM education, science, math, engineering, and technology, to analyze and solve problems
  - Students learn how to use tools and machines for processing materials or products.
  - Using STEM concepts, students will apply mathematical and scientific principles to technical problems.
  - Likewise, students use computers to analyze data and mechanical/electrical systems to solve problems.

### **Advanced Engineering Honors**

- Typical hours of homework: about 2 hours of work outside of class
- Suggested prerequisite courses and academic achievement:
  - n/a
- Course Description:
  - Throughout the year, students will work together in small engineering teams.
  - Teams will select a project, such as a model, system, or product, to creatively solve utilizing engineering concepts.
  - Teams learn how to use communications, graphics, mathematics, and community personnel to solve the engineering problem.
  - Students will implement *FIRST* Robotics competition requirements to design, prototype and build a working robot.