

9th Grade Course Descriptions, Updated March, 2017

Honors English 9 is an I.B. MYP (Middle Years Program) language and literature course that aims to equip students with linguistic, analytical and communicative skills that help to develop interdisciplinary understanding. Students develop skills in six domains—listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting—both independently and with others.

Advanced Honors English 9 is a new I.B. MYP (Middle Years Program) course offering for students with exemplary reading and writing skills who are prepared to read more complete text and engage in deeper written analysis. This course is suggested for students with A grades in Language Arts courses who are planning to take AP, IB or Dual Enrollment English coursework later in high school. Students/parents choosing this course must obtain teacher recommendation from current Language Arts teacher & sign contract with English faculty.

Art 1— is a studio course with a focus on the elements of art and principles of design. Students will create drawings, paintings, printmaking, photography, life drawings, sculpture and other. Art History is a focus and students are expected to recognize 40 historical pieces of art covered during the year. Students keep a process journal/sketch book and are expected to make sketches at home on a regular basis. There is no outside class commitment other than homework and optional visits to local venues and art museums for extra credit.

Concert Band- Please see signalcorpsband.com for detailed information on events, fees and requirements. All students in high school band are expected to participate in marching band except for those participating in Signal Mountain Middle High school-sponsored fall sports who have been cleared by the band director. Band members are expected to participate in summer and after-school practice and events.

Theatre 1— focuses on theatrical performance, theatre making, and theatre culture around the world. Course work focuses on the history of theatre, physical staging and acting. No theatrical experience is required. Students are expected to attend 1 play per semester outside of school as well as all SMMHS productions.

Choir -Strong emphasis is placed on learning to read music pitches and rhythms as well as working to improve vocal technique and healthy singing. Students will learn a variety of styles of music as well as songs in several different languages. Students will be expected to attend performances and keep an up-to-date chorus folder. Assessments will be personal and group performances and occasional tests and quizzes. *Choral Ensemble* is an auditioned group, which performs with the concert choir, but has separate rehearsals during the lunch period to work on more difficult music and have the experience of working with a small advanced group.

Instrumental Strings- Instrumental Strings is offered as a beginner and intermediate/advanced course. Students with experience should select the intermediate level course. Instruments include violin, viola, cello and bass. Students will have the opportunity to perform at school functions and in the community.

Wellness is a course with a holistic approach to health and lifetime physical activities where students acquire knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being. The content topics include Disease Prevention and Control, Nutrition, Substance Use and Abuse, Mental/Emotional/Social Health, Family Life, Safety and First Aid and Personal Fitness. Personal fitness and nutrition are emphasized and integrated throughout the course. Students spend half of the time in a classroom setting and half in the gym or other setting for physical activity.

Biology I is a lab science that covers the breadth of living bodies, from the cell to a living object's place in the ecosystem. The concepts/topics include: cells, interdependence, flow of matter and energy, heredity, and biodiversity and change. An emphasis will be placed upon developing proper lab technique and research skills to be used in future science courses. Honors Biology 1 will cover the same standards as Biology 1 to a greater depth. In addition to the Biology 1 requirements, students will undertake an individual research project and move at a faster pace. Honors Biology 1 designed

for advanced science students who are interested in science as a future career. (Honors Biology will require science teacher recommendation in the spring.)

Algebra I provides the development of problem solving skills and concepts that are necessary for students to succeed in subsequent mathematics courses. Students will learn to use multiple representations and justify solutions. The transition from the concrete to the abstract is an essential element of this course. Topics include: (1) Equations and Inequalities (2) Linear Functions, (3) Polynomial Operations (4) Introduction to Quadratic Functions (5) Operations with Radicals (6) Introduction to Exponential Growth

Honors Geometry Problem-solving situations provide all students an environment that promotes communication, engages student reasoning, and fosters connections within mathematics, to other disciplines, and to the real world. Students will use physical models to represent, explore, and develop abstract concepts. The use of appropriate technology will help students apply mathematics in an increasingly technological world. The concepts/topics emphasized in the course include measurement, geometric patterns, coordinate geometry, two- and three- dimensional figures, transformational geometry, congruence, similarity, and right triangle trigonometry. Students are assessed at a deep level and are required to complete projects that involve open-ended investigations, constructions, and the application of constructions to develop new mathematical concepts. Non right triangle trigonometry is included.

Honors Algebra II stresses the learning of mathematical processes in order to model real world situations. The topics studied are equations, inequalities, linear programming, quadratic equations, parabolas, complex numbers, polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, radical functions, trigonometric functions, sequences and series, and probability and statistics. This goal is to further students' understanding of mathematics and prepare them for the next step in their mathematical journey. Algebra II one of the most pivotal courses in preparing for the ACT and SAT. Honors students will encounter advanced types of problems that stretch beyond the standard Algebra II curriculum.. Students are assessed at a more advanced level and are required to complete investigative projects.

In Honors Contemporary Issues students study various dynamic issues facing today's society enabling them to discover their values and responsibilities as citizens in society. Students will utilize different learning methods in order to research, discuss, debate, form opinions, create videos and talk-show dialogues, and use primary sources for clarity. Topics regarding First Amendment ,Citizenship, Fallacies in Reasoning, Homelessness Awareness, Media Influence, Global Genocides, Criminal Justice, Power of Protest, and World Geography are explored. The New York Times periodical, UPFRONT, is a source and discovery tool for advanced reading. Honors Contemporary Issues students who want to take AP World History in the 10th grade will be given the required summer project in advance for working on during the second semester when World Geography is covered.

In Honors Ancient History students will study the time period from the Neolithic Revolution through 1500 focusing on politics, religion, art and architecture, technological innovations, economics, and social structure of emerging and developing societies. Students will learn to interpret primary sources and be engaged in student driven investigation. Examples of tasks include writing an original Greek play and creating a metaphor to show the influence that China had on Asia during the Middle Ages. Honors Ancient History is a course designed to challenge students who are interested in taking Advanced Placement World History in the 10th grade, although Honors Ancient History is not required in order to progress to AP World History.

In high school, students earn a half-credit in each class at the end of each semester (in December & May). 1st & 2nd semester grades are NOT averaged together for a final year-long average- as is done in middle school.

3 points are added to students' final semester grade for any course designated as "Honors."