



Did you know?

Colleges would rather see students earn a B in an Honors-level class than an A in a College Preparatory class.



Did you know?

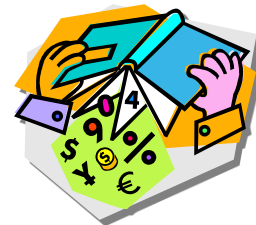
The most selective colleges want students who shine in 1 or 2 areas; students who are passionate about something and show commitment. A well-rounded student is great, but a student who really excels at something that he/she loves will stand out even more.



Did you know?

Colleges actually care what you sign up to take during your senior year of high school. Keep challenging yourself!

What is HONORS MATH?



The Honors math curriculum is designed to fully prepare students who wish to:

- 1) Take an Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus course
- 2) Complete an International Baccalaureate (IB) math course
- 3) Challenge themselves or want to show colleges that they have chosen a more rigorous program for themselves

At Sunny Hills High School, Honors math courses are different than College Preparatory (CP) math courses in 2 ways.

Firstly, Honors courses are more thorough than CP courses in that they challenge students to develop in-depth understanding of the subject matter. Students are routinely asked to extend their math knowledge and use their critical thinking skills to construct their own problem-solving methods.

Secondly, Honors courses progress through math concepts at a faster pace than their CP counterparts. Many Honors math courses end the school year by learning the first few chapters of the next math course. (Geometry classes go on to study Algebra 2, Algebra 2 classes go on to study Pre-Calculus, etc.)

Why Participate in Honors?

Honors courses are meant to smoothly guide students into corresponding AP and IB courses.

The College Board gives many reasons for students to take AP coursework¹. Some of these include:

- 1) Acquiring skills and habits you'll need to be successful in college.
- 2) Developing time-management skills, discipline, and study habits.
- 3) Further exploring your interest in a variety of fields of study.
- 4) Standing out in the admissions process by showing your commitment to academic excellence.
- 5) Possibly earning college credit, which will save you time and money in college coursework!

Some reasons to participate in the IB program include:

- 1) Acquiring international perspectives of learning, which ensures increased adaptability and mobility in terms of post-secondary education at the international level².
- 2) Developing a positive attitude to learning that prepares students for university education.
- 3) Advanced placement, course credit, advanced standing, and/or special admission considerations at approximately 1500 colleges and universities³.



Did you know?

The most important part of any Honors math class is DOING YOUR HOMEWORK. (Like, every problem!) Doing your homework every night will help you stay on top of almost-daily new topics. It will also help you score well on all of those pesky pop quizzes!



Did you know?

A CP math test contains mostly basic-intermediate questions, while an Honors math test contains almost all intermediate-challenging questions!



Did you know?

Successful Algebra 2 students are strong in Algebra 1! Successful Pre-Calculus students are strong in Algebra 2 and Geometry! Calculus has it ALL!

FAQ's

1. What is the best indicator that I should take an Honors math class?

You may want to consider taking an Honors math class if you are *effortlessly* earning a high A in your CP math class. If you are struggling to earn an A, or *effortlessly* earning a B, then you should reconsider signing up for Honors math.

2. Can I drop an Honors math class once I've signed up to take it?

Yes, but each class has different drop requirements. Your math teacher will tell you about these requirements and the drop date for the specific class that you are taking.

3. If I drop an Honors math class, can I "get back into" Honors?

While it is possible, it is very difficult to do so. A student

who, let's say, drops Honors Geometry, then does very well in CP Algebra 2, then takes Honors Pre-Calculus, will be less prepared and have a much harder time keeping up with his/her classmates. Each successive Honors course is designed to be more thorough than the last so that students who eventually take AP and IB courses are prepared for college-level math.

4. Can I take AP Calculus, AP Statistics, or IB SL/HL without taking Honors math classes?

Yes; by successfully completing the prerequisite courses and earning acceptable grades (please see the FJUHS course catalog on the school website), it is possible for a student who takes CP courses to take an AP or IB course.

5. Does having Honors classes raise my GPA?

Yes and no; An A in CP is worth 4 points, but an A in Honors is worth 5 points! The same is true for B and C grades. Colleges, though, figure out your GPA differently than high schools. Speak with your counselor for UC and CSU grade requirements.

6. What happens if I earn a D (or F) in honors?

Colleges only recognize grades of C or higher. Therefore, a student who earns a D/F in an Honors class must retake the CP version of that class before progressing. Because the classes are different, both grades are calculated into his/her GPA. At the end of semester 1, students earning a D need to re-evaluate their academic goals and expectations. In their best interest, those who earn a D will be placed on a contract while those who earn an F will be placed in CP math.

Things to KEEP IN MIND...

A CP math class gives notes on basic-intermediate concepts and then assigns homework problems that are basic-intermediate. An Honors math class, however, will give notes on basic-intermediate concepts and then assign homework problems that are intermediate-challenging. This is to give students constant practice in the type of connective, critical-thinking, problems that will be asked of them in AP and IB courses.

Honors math tests generally include at least 1 or 2 problems in which students are asked to stretch their mathematical thinking – a chapter 7 test will probably have a question that incorporates concepts from chapters 5 and 6!

An Honors math student should expect anywhere from 30-60 minutes of homework per night. There is homework assigned almost every night, even on test days! (Yes, test days!)

Are you a student who is considering moving out of CP classes to ALL Honors classes? This may not be a good idea! Having 1, or even 2, new Honors classes will require a huge change in study habits. Think about how much time you can realistically devote to each of your classes. Be realistic about your expectations.

¹ <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>

² <http://www.ibo.org/>

³ <http://shhsib.businesscatalyst.com/>