

Honors and AP Policy in the **MATH Department**

All students should experience a rigorous academic program that prepares them for their post high school goals. The college preparatory curriculum in all subject areas meets that need, while honors and advanced placement courses provide additional challenges for highly motivated and skilled students in all academic departments.

Honors/AP Policy

Students who enroll in an honors or advanced placement (AP) course do so understanding that they will have to meet even higher standards of performance than in the college-preparatory curriculum. Please refer to the reverse side of this page for additional advanced placement student expectations.

- ❑ Honors and AP course content is taught at a much faster pace compared to the corresponding college preparatory class. Honors and AP courses cover additional content leaving little to no time for reviewing math concepts learned in previous courses. Therefore, students are expected to have a deep and complete understanding of all prerequisite math courses. AP courses must also finish the course content before the AP exam takes place, compressing the time allowed for learning and mastery of the course content.
- ❑ Honors and AP courses require significantly more homework, sometimes more than twice as much work, as the corresponding college preparatory class. Students with a deep understanding of math will complete assignments quickly while students not adequately prepared for the course will find themselves struggling and spending a lot of time doing homework.
- ❑ Honors and AP courses require a higher level of performance in the quality of student work to earn the same grade as in the corresponding college preparatory course.
- ❑ Honors and AP courses require more student independence and responsibility in the completion and mastery of required work.

Students who enroll in Algebra 2 Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, and AP Math courses understand that:

- ❑ The ability to transfer to the equivalent non-Honors or non-AP course is dependent on space availability in the college-preparatory class within the first 3 weeks of school. It is best for students to select the course they will be successful in when signing up for classes in February, before the master schedule is built for the school. Students are encouraged to select a course for the next year based on the recommendation their math teacher has provided, overall, time commitment to extra-curricular activities as well as their own dedication to and love of learning math.
- ❑ Students who drop Honors/AP math classes are responsible for all missed content covered in the course they are entering into. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies in the class they are entering into, and understand that the grade they earned in the first weeks of school may transfer with them.
- ❑ If a student chooses to drop rather than transfer, the student may drop an honors or advanced placement class through the seventh week of the first semester, however, a drop after seven weeks is reflected as a Withdrawal Fail (WF) on the official transcript.

Advanced Placement Student Expectations

Saratoga High School

The opportunity to be in an advanced placement class carries with it certain assumptions about the capabilities and maturity of high school students who will now be doing college level work. It is hoped that students are primarily motivated by an appreciation for the subject and secondarily by GPA or the AP exam.

Students are expected:

1. To be independent learners, willing to read, learn, ask questions of the text, pursue outside reading and research, integrate and discuss material from diverse sources.
2. To be primarily motivated by an appreciation for the subject and secondarily by GPA or the AP exam.
3. To spend, on average, approximately one hour of outside study for each AP class per school day.
4. To always attend class, take tests, and turn in assignments on time.
5. To accept that enrollment in an AP course does not guarantee an A or B grade; there is a possibility of receiving a C or lower grade.
6. To accept gracefully assignments, suggestions, and coaching from the teacher.
7. To uphold academic integrity, which means doing the right thing even when no one is looking.
To abide by all school policies surrounding academic integrity.

Contract for Algebra 2 Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and AP Statistics.

Students who enroll in an honors or advanced placement course and their parent/guardian must agree to the following conditions before signing the **Schedule of Courses Signature Page** given to each student:

1. I recognize that I have to demonstrate more independence and responsibility plus meet even higher standards of performance in any honors or advanced placement course than students in college preparatory courses to earn the same grade. College preparatory classes typically require 20-60 minutes homework nightly. Honors classes typically require 1½ times as much homework as college preparatory classes. Each advanced placement course may require as much as five hours or more of homework weekly.
2. I understand that any transfer from an Honors or AP course is dependent on space availability in the college-preparatory class. A drop after the official DROP date (end of seven weeks) is reflected as a Withdrawal Fail (WF) on the official transcript.
3. I agree to uphold Saratoga High School's academic integrity policy. I understand that I may be dropped from any honors or advanced placement class with a failing grade pursuant to a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy if I plagiarize, cheat, or submit work other than that which I personally have done.
4. I understand that a California State University (CSU) and University of California (US) do not award an extra GPA point on the weighted GPA for the Algebra 2 Honors class.
5. I understand that a California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) approved honors or advanced placement class receives an extra GPA point on the weighted GPA. An extra point is not calculated on the unweighted GPA.