



USD 232

HONORS TO GRADE LEVEL COURSE COMPARISON

	Honors English 9	English 9
Summer Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required at Mill Valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class time is given to get started on most assignments. • Depending on the unit, homework is usually given every night. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most assignments are done in class. The majority of homework given is reading.
Rigor of Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most reading is done individually by the student at home. • The expectation is that students read at home and then are ready for discussion in class. • There are multiple times a year where students will have a short amount of time (1-2 weeks) to read a novel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some reading is done individually, but more difficult passages are done as a class. • There are multiple times a year where students will have a short amount of time (1-2 weeks) to read a short novel.
Rigor of Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are asked to write multiple essays (3-4 paragraphs) per quarter. • Most essays are given one class day to get started with a due date of the next class period. • Intensity of writing and evaluation increases as the year progresses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to write one, five paragraph essay per quarter. • Some shorter writing assignments are given. • Students are usually given two class periods to work on essays.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on preparing the student for college & career readiness. • Preparation for Honors English 10, AP Language (11th grade), & AP Literature (12th grade). • Weighted credit- standard grade plus .5 • Colleges look for AP/rigorous courses on transcript. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on preparing the student for college & career readiness. • Preparation for English 10, English 11, & English 12. • Provides a smooth transition into high school courses.



USD 232

HONORS TO GRADE LEVEL COURSE COMPARISON

	<i>Honors Biology</i>	<i>Biology</i>
<i>Summer Assignment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
<i>Homework</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have regularly assigned reading or homework. Students are also expected to study outside of class to master content. • Students are often required to read or complete assignments in preparation for application activities in class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any assigned work not completed in class is considered homework. Formal homework is rarely assigned.
<i>Rigor of Biology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The curriculum will be presented at an accelerated pace. • Learning activities will be a combination of teacher-guided and student-driven. • Students must have strong organizational skills, be self-driven, and have effective study habits. • Grades will be heavily weighted towards assessments. Homework and labs will be important in assessment preparation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The curriculum will be presented at a grade-level pace. • Most learning activities are teacher-directed. • Students should have basic organization skills, have a strong work ethic, and be open to practicing new study habits. • Grades will be closely split between quizzes/tests and assignments completed in class.
<i>Depth of Content</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both follow a similar sequence of units, however, some units may be unique to Honors Biology. • The Honors Biology curriculum will be studied at much greater depth to prepare students for success in future, rigorous science classes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both follow a similar sequence of units. • The Biology curriculum will emphasize an introductory understanding of concepts to prepare students for success in any future science classes.
<i>Benefits</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on preparing the student for college & career readiness. • Preparation for AP Biology. • Weighted credit—standard grade plus 0.5. • Colleges consider AP/rigorous courses on transcript during the admissions process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on preparing the student for college & career readiness. • Provides a smooth transition into high school courses.



USD 232

HONORS TO GRADE LEVEL COURSE COMPARISON

	<i>Honors Integrated Math 1</i>	<i>Integrated Math 1</i>
<i>Summer Homework</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required at Mill Valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
<i>Homework</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will have homework daily. Projects incorporated more frequently. These are often completed outside of class time. The projects relate math to applicable “real world” experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will have homework daily. One to two projects per year assigned and some class time is given to complete them.
<i>Rigor of Math Content</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use Big Ideas Integrated Math 1 by Ron Larson and Laurie Boswell as our curriculum resource. Algebra 1, Geometry, Matrices, and some Algebra 2 concepts are covered. The content is occasionally supplemented with subjects and topics beyond those included in the textbook. Students in this course have the opportunity to take various AP courses, such as AP Calculus, their senior year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use Big Ideas Integrated Math 1 by Ron Larson and Laurie Boswell as our curriculum resource. Algebra 1, Geometry, Statistics and some Algebra 2 concepts are covered. Students in this course may not reach AP Calculus by their senior year. (Students would need to move to Honors Math 2 by 10th grade.)
<i>Classroom Expectations & Grading</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% assessments, 10% homework, 10% homework checks 2 retakes 1st semester, 1 retake 2nd semester No retakes daily quizzes. Semester grades are partially weighted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% assessments, 20% homework checks, 10% homework completion Retakes are allowed on tests (options limited to 1-2 per semester) and daily quizzes. Semester grades are not weighted.
<i>Benefits</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on preparing the student for college & career readiness. The course will give acute attention to mathematical detail, which will prepare students for subsequent higher level math courses. This course receives a .5 weighting towards the student’s weighted GPA. Colleges look for Honors/rigorous courses on transcript. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on preparing the student for college & career readiness. Preparation for Integrated Math 2 & Integrated Math 3. Provides a smooth transition into high school courses.



USD 232

HONORS TO GRADE LEVEL COURSE COMPARISON

	Honors Integrated Math 2	Integrated Math 2
Summer Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students complete a non-calculator summer assignment that covers many pre-algebra and algebra skills; students will show mastery with a quiz (without a calculator) on the third day of school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will have homework daily, oftentimes even on test days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will have homework daily, however typically not on test days.
Rigor of Math Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows the curriculum of Big Idea's Integrated Math 2 textbook. Geometry and Algebra 2 concepts are covered. Content is often supplemented with subjects and topics beyond those included in the textbook to give students a greater depth of understanding.. Students may be asked to perform some calculations without a calculator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows the curriculum of Big Idea's Integrated Math 2 textbook. Geometry and Algebra 2 concepts are covered.
Classroom Expectations & Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% assessments, 20% homework checks, 10% homework completion No retakes on tests or daily quizzes. Semester grades are partially weighted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% assessments, 20% homework checks, 10% homework completion Retakes are allowed on tests (options limited to 1-2 per semester) and daily quizzes. Semester grades are not weighted.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on preparing the student for college & career readiness. Provide acute attention to mathematical detail, which will prepare students for subsequent higher level math courses. Students in this course have the opportunity to take AP Calculus their junior or senior years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on preparing the student for college & career readiness. Preparation for Integrated Math 3. Students in this course may not reach AP Calculus by their senior year.

USD 232: **AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY** **FAQS**

As 8th grade students begin to sign up for their freshman classes, it's time to consider whether your child should register for an Advanced Placement course next year.

The AP curriculum, administered by the College Board, consists of standardized high school courses that are roughly equivalent to undergraduate college courses. After completing an AP class, students typically take the AP exam in that subject, which can earn them credits and accelerated placement in college if they perform well on the AP test, which is given in May.

To help your student decide if an AP course is right for your child, we answer some frequently asked questions about Advanced Placement:

Who should take an AP class?

The Advanced Placement experience is not for every student. Before choosing to enroll your child in an AP course, consider these factors:

- Your child's past performance in the subject area. If a student has always excelled at social studies, AP Human Geography may be a great idea.
- Your child's skills. AP Human Geography will require heavy amounts of reading and writing. Is your student prepared for long, difficult reading assignments, multiple essays, and in-depth research papers?
- Your child's schedule. A student who plays sports year-round, holds leadership positions in one or more extracurricular activities, and/or has a part-time job may find it difficult to meet the sizable obligations of an AP class.
- Your child's GPA. No student should take an AP course if it's likely to lower his or her overall GPA. College admissions officers want to see students taking challenging courses, but they also want to see strong grades. If your child is worried about maintaining decent grades in an AP course, it might be wise to stay with a grade level course.

Why take an AP class?

- Be challenged. Advanced Placement classes are rigorous and demanding, offering an intellectual stimulation that students won't get in regular high school courses.
- Improve college admissions chances. AP classes will raise the "wow" factor of a student's high school record. If a student does well in an AP class, it's a signal to admissions counselors that he or she is ready for the pressures of college study.
- Arrive at college better prepared. AP classes sharpen students' writing skills, teach them how to think critically, and improve their problem-solving abilities. AP students learn to navigate the academic expectations they'll encounter in college courses.
- Earn college credit. AP exams are scored on a scale of 1 (lowest) through 5 (highest). If a student earns a 3 or higher, he or she can receive course credits, advanced placement, or both upon arriving at college. AP policies vary from school to school, but the majority of colleges in the U.S. (as well as colleges and universities in 40 other countries) grant credit and/or accelerated placement for AP exams.
- Win scholarships. AP courses and exam scores help students qualify for scholarships. According to the College Board, 31 percent of colleges and universities look at AP experience when making scholarship decisions.
- Save money. Students with AP experience and credits are more likely to graduate from college in four years. Extra semesters (or years) at college can put a heavy financial burden on families.