Honors Program

For qualified students, honors courses are available in English, mathematics, social studies, science, and foreign languages. Each department establishes requirements for admission to honors courses. Students who meet the requirements are placed in honors courses during the course selection process early in the second semester. A student who does not meet departmental requirements for an honors course at the end of the first semester but who subsequently qualifies may file an admission petition with the appropriate teacher during the first week in May.

A student who successfully completes the Honors Program earns an Honors Diploma. In order to successfully complete the Honors Program, a student must meet all CHS graduation requirements and the following criteria:

- Cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.5000 or higher. GPAs are not rounded.
- No semester grade lower than a C in any course
- Completion of at least 13 honors credits, including 2 honors credits in the senior year

Advanced Placement

Catholic High School offers Advanced Placement (AP) classes that meet the standards set by the College Board. AP classes are considered part of the Honors Program. Students in AP classes take standardized AP tests each spring and may earn college credit based on their score. Catholic High School administers AP tests for those AP courses offered at CHS, as well as for some subjects taught in our academic program.

AP students are not required to take a final exam during Catholic High School's exam week, but they are required to take the AP exam for that course. Students who are absent for the AP exam, sent out of the exam because they have caused a disruption of the testing environment, or are observed to have made less than a good faith effort on the exam, will be required to take the regular academic exam for that subject during Catholic High School's underclassman exam week. The score on that non-AP exam will be averaged into a student's grade for the AP class. Seniors take note: if you are an AP student who must take a non-AP exam due to any circumstance described above, your grade for the course may not be complete before graduation. In this instance, you will receive a blank diploma until your final grade is available.

Other Considerations

An honors course will be offered only if a sufficient number of students are placed in this the course.

If scheduling conflicts prohibit a student from meeting the exact course requirements of the Honors Program, the administration may approve an alternate program for the individual student.

Only courses on the transcript as honors or AP counts towards the 13 required credits for an Honors Diploma.

From time to time the administration may add courses to or remove courses from the Honors Program. Any addition or removal of a course must be announced by the end of the school year prior to the academic year for which the change will take effect.

Once a student receives honors credit for a particular course, the honors credit remains even if the course is later removed from the Honors Program.

Classes Taken Off-Campus

In rare circumstances, students may be allowed to take courses for high school or college credit in courses not offered at CHS. In order for a course taken other than at Catholic High or St. Joseph's Academy to be recorded

on a Catholic High transcript, a CHS student must have prior permission from the academic assistant principal. All courses taken outside of CHS and SJA are recorded on transcripts as pass/fail courses. Exceptions may be made to this policy.

Seal of Biliteracy

A senior completing four years of a foreign language and having an ACT English and Reading scores of 19 or above, qualifies for the State of Louisiana Seal of Biliteracy. Students who score a 3 or higher on a World Language AP Exam are also qualified to receive the Seal of Biliteracy. Students that meet the Seal of Biliteracy will receive a Seal of Biliteracy certificate.

Grading

Report Cards: Report cards are issued four times a year. Each division of the school year is referred to as a quarter. The first two quarters make up the first semester. The third and fourth quarters make up the second semester. The letter system of grading used is as follows:

A: 4 Quality Points
B: 3 Quality Points
C: 2 Quality Points
D: 1 Quality Point
F: 0 Quality Point

Grade Determination

- **Homework:** Students must complete assigned homework on a regular basis in order to qualify for full academic credit. Such assignments help each student to determine if he has truly understood materials presented in class and reinforce the learning process. The student's work on an assignment also helps the teacher assess his/her own effectiveness in classroom instruction.

- **Makeup Work:** Whenever a student misses an assignment, quiz, test or examination, it is his responsibility to contact teachers in order to make up the work. The student will receive a failing grade for whatever work he fails to make up within the time limits set by individual teachers.

- **Examinations:** Course examinations are administered on a semester basis. The time period for an examination is one and one-half hours. Exam schedules are announced through the Principal's Newsletter, the school website, and are posted around school in the days prior to exams.

- **Quarter Grades:** Quarter grades are determined on the basis of student work. The student will receive a numeric average as his grade for each quarter. Parents can view the numeric average by viewing the student's grades on PlusPortals.

  A: 90-100
  B: 80-89
  C: 70-79
  D: 60-69
  F: 0-59

- **Semester Grades:** First and second semester grades are calculated by counting each quarter's numeric average as 40% of the semester grade and the semester exam as 20%. For example, a student with an 89% in the first quarter, a 95% in the second, and who scored 97% on his exam would have his semester grade calculated according to the following formula:

(89 x .4) + (95 x .4) + (97 x .2) = 35.6 + 38 + 19.4 = 93. According to the scale above, the student would receive an A for the first semester.

- **Final Grades:** No final grade is given. Semester grades stand alone, with the exception noted in the following paragraph.

- **Overcoming First Semester Failures:** If a student fails the first semester of a full year course, he may earn full credit for the course if he earns a grade of C or higher for the second semester, demonstrating that he has overcome his first semester deficiency. In such cases, on the student's final transcript, the first semester F will be changed to a D, and the second semester grade will be lowered one letter grade. A new report card will not be issued. A second semester failure occurs at the end of the school year and therefore can only be amended by summer remediation work.

- **Grade Point Averaging:** Catholic High School calculates both an unweighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) based on semester grades and a weighted cumulative grade point average (WCGPA).
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NOTE: Summer school is considered an additional semester. Therefore, a grade earned in summer school does not cancel or replace an F or D earned during the academic year. Both the F or D and the summer school grade are included in the CHS grade point average.

As stipulated under the CHS admission policy, any transfer student's grades expressed numerically are converted to letter grades.

Questions about calculating quarter, semester or weighted cumulative grade point averages should be directed to the academic assistant principal.

Weighted GPA Calculations

Catholic High School offers students the opportunity to take certain courses in order to receive additional weight in calculating a student's grade point average (designated as WCGPA – see below for exact calculations). Additional weight is given to these courses because they are within core academic disciplines and are available to the widest possible group of qualified students, while still allowing students to select from a variety of electives. Additional honors/AP courses available to students outside of this program do not receive additional weight. The WCGPA system produces a grade point average distribution that accurately reflects the relative positions of graduates for determination of valedictorian and salutatorian.

Only the following honors and AP courses are given weight in a student's WGPA. These honors and AP courses are weighted equally.

- English II Honors
- Any two of the following: English III Honors, AP English Language, English IV Honors, or AP English Literature
- Algebra II Honors
- Pre-Calculus Honors
- One of the following: Calculus Honors, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC
- Chemistry Honors
- One of the following: Physics Honors or AP Physics
- One of the following: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science
- American History Honors or AP US History
- One of the following: AP World History, AP European History, World History Honors

The WCGPA is determined by the following formula: Weighted cumulative grade-point average = GPA + {number of honors program core curriculum semesters (see below) completed with grades of A, B, or C x .02}. In determining the WGPA, all semester grades are included; however, weight is given at the end of each semester to a limited number of Honors Program Core Curriculum semesters. Weight is not given until a student completes the 1st semester of his sophomore year. The highest possible WCGPA at CHS is a 4.4400.

Time and semesters of Honors Program Core Curriculum semesters that are given weight:

Sophomore (mid-year) - up to 3 semesters
Sophomore (end) - up to 6 semesters
Junior (mid-year) - up to 10 semesters
Junior (end) - up to 14 semesters
Senior (mid-year) - up to 18 semesters
Senior (end) - All eligible semesters (capped at 22 semesters)