

**Honors, AP,
Running Start, & Dual Credit
Advanced Educational Opportunities
at
Curtis High School**

What is Honors?

'Honors' is a designation that can be achieved by the student and will be noted on the student's transcript. It is an indication that the student has either, taken a separate honors class, or done honors work in addition to, or in place of, normally required work, and shows the student's scholastic achievement beyond the norm. Because each school district in the state and across the country develops their own criteria for honors designation, the importance of, and the meaningfulness of this designation can vary.

What is AP?

AP stands for 'Advanced Placement.' Advanced Placement is a class that offers an opportunity to earn college credit. It is essentially a college course offered at the high school level. While not all colleges accept AP credits toward their degree programs, many do. To achieve this, AP courses follow a nationally standardized curriculum. A student will be studying the same material and doing the same work as students in AP classes across the country. Because of this, student performance in AP classes and results of AP Testing are good indicators of student scholarship and potential for college bound individuals. At the end of the AP course, a nationally standardized test measures student knowledge in a particular subject area. College credit requires a passing score of 3, 4, or 5 on the associated AP test. Test scores can range from 0 to 5, with 5 being the highest. AP classes are indicated as such on the student's transcript. There is a fee associated with the AP test itself, and financial assistance is available to students who may need it.

What is Running Start?

Running Start is a program that allows high school students to earn college credits for coursework done at a local technical or community college without paying tuition. College credits earned also apply as credits toward high school requirements for graduation. Students must meet certain requirements (must be juniors or seniors, college placement exam performance, and satisfy course prerequisites, if any). Students must complete the application process before the end of the school year in the Spring for the coming year. As the college's school year is different, it is generally not advised to try to enter the program mid-year.

What is Dual Credit?

Dual credit gives students the opportunity to earn local community or technical college credit while attending high school classes. Students master the same competencies as college students. Dual credit is available in over 40 courses.

What opportunities are available at CHS?

Honors: CHS currently offers honors designations in English. If you are interested in knowing more about specific area of instruction, contact information is listed below.

AP: CHS currently offers AP coursework in English, Calculus, Statistics, Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and U. S. History. AP testing follows the completion of the coursework and information regarding test dates is shared with students in class, as well as available from counselors.

AP credit is available in some subject areas not currently presented by CHS. If your student shows interest in one of these areas, please contact your student's counselor to explore independent or outside options.

Running Start: The Running Start program is currently available in partnership with Bates and Clover Park Technical College, Tacoma Community College and Pierce Community College. Contact your counselor for applications and more information regarding this program.

Dual Credit: The courses that are eligible for dual crediting are taught in cooperation with Bates and Clover Park Technical College, Tacoma Community College and Pierce Community College. Contact your counselor for applications and more information regarding this program

How does my student participate?

These classes are self-selected. A student is expected to decide whether the classes are appropriate to their educational goals and to select those courses when they register for classes each year. Note that both the Honors classes and AP classes are more academically challenging and will require more effort, time and work than regular offerings.

Prerequisites: Some classes suggest or require prior course work or performance to prevent overwhelming the unprepared student. Student's who are sure of their desire but uncertain about their ability to keep up with the pace and workload should discuss their situation with their counselor, parents, teacher/mentors before making a decision.

How can I get more information?

The first point of contact should be your student's counselor. They are eminently qualified and trained to assist you with your inquiries and can assist the student in finding solutions to meet their educational needs.

Counselors may be reached by calling Curtis High School at 566-5710.