

Syllabus

HPS Honors Lab

2024-2025

The focus of HPS Honors is to provide students with a comprehensive and integrated approach to literacy. This approach will extend students' abilities to read and write increasingly complex texts as well as examine and establish style and voice in writing. HPS Honors is organized by both thematic and genre instructional units. Students discover personal and shared understandings of themes through a variety of opportunities for them to read, write, speak, listen, analyze and critique texts strategically, and creatively.

Reading



This course is a study of sophisticated texts and diverse writing techniques. Supplemental readings will also be assigned. This approach utilizes a wide selection of contemporary and classic fiction, non-fiction, short stories, plays, poetry, and informational texts. Strategic readers compare, infer, synthesize, and make connections as they construct meaning within and beyond texts. Literary and informational texts are connected to central themes and essential questions that cross content areas whenever relevant. Both literature and expository texts provide various models of writing and which are the basis for instruction in vocabulary and grammar. Small group experiences provide opportunities for students to collaborate, investigate, and extend learning.

Additionally, all students participate in independent reading, which provides them the opportunity to read books they choose. Time is allotted within the English blocks for independent reading, and students will complete end-of-unit projects related to their books.



Writing



Students use the writing strategies and techniques presented to compose narrative, explanatory and argumentative pieces which may take a multitude of forms. The study of multi-genre writing allows teachers to accommodate students' needs by tailoring instruction during writing conferences and mini-lessons. Each marking period students complete two select assignments designed to apply many of the objectives studied to an extended writing or research assignment. These writing products will be cataloged in each student's multi-genre writing portfolio. Having this compilation of each student's best work in electronic form will allow for file sharing with friends, family, colleges, scholarship committees, employers, and more.

Growth



Assessments are an important part of the instructional program as they help students measure their growth and set goals for their learning. Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to, compositions, open-ended responses, structured discussions, quizzes, presentations, and homework.

Class Expectations & Guidelines

As an honors student, you are expected to put forth your best effort daily, to think on a higher level, and to be responsible for yourself. You can expect to be challenged, but you will be provided with the tools and support you need to be successful. You are encouraged to have high expectations for yourself so that you will grow and learn in meaningful ways throughout this class.

Everything is posted on Google Classroom. You will access Google Classroom daily to participate in class, check for instructions, and submit classwork.

Phones and personal devices need to be stored out of sight unless teacher permission has been given to be used for academic purposes.

Absences & Make-Up Work

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up the assignments you miss. You may always check our Google Classroom page for assignments and materials. Reach out to clarify any questions you may have, either in person or by email.

Homework & Late Work

You will receive a manageable amount of homework in this class; however, you can also expect a challenge in an honors level class. Any homework/classwork not turned in when due will lose points for every day the assignment is late.

Gradebook

Essays, Projects, Tests 35%

Assignments (including homework) 30%

Journals, Notebooks, Quizzes 20%

Participation 15%

Students completing HPS Honors Lab will receive 1 academic credit for the year (.25 credit per marking period).

