

ACADEMIC LEVELS

All courses are assigned a level of difficulty in one of four categories. In structuring these levels, the following criteria has been established:

1. Complexity of content and pace of instruction
2. Difficulty and amount of reading material
3. Abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills
4. Integration of previously learned material
5. Quality and frequency of homework and independent assignments
6. Level of mastery of course proficiencies.

Further elaboration of these details can be found on pp. 11-12 in the [Curriculum Handbook](#), located online at [Eastern>Guidance>Course Guide, Newsletter, School Profile>Curriculum Handbook](#). It is updated annually.

COLLEGE PREP

- Courses are designed to prepare students for post-secondary education and the workplace.
- These courses are intended for students performing ***below grade level***; and/or who need more intensified instruction in academic skills.
- The preparation of students for success on standardized assessments is a priority.
- Student placement will be determined by previous academic achievement and consideration of standardized test scores.

ACCELERATED

- Accelerated Courses are intended for students with ***on-grade level*** academic skills.
- Developing critical analysis skills is a primary objective of Accelerated instruction.
- Student placement will be determined by previous academic achievement.

HONORS & ADVANCED HONORS

- Courses designed as Honors and Advanced Honors are intended for students who are ***well above grade level*** in their academic, self-motivational, and organization.
- Honors and Advanced Honors courses require students to be ***highly organized*** and willing to assume responsibility for the substantially heightened volume and standard of Honors and Advanced Honors-level academic work.
- Substantive critical analysis within a content-rich academic environment forms the heart of the Honors and Advanced Honors academic routine.

- Student ability level will be determined by previous academic achievement, assessment scores and teacher recommendation based on familiar knowledge of and observation of student performance.
- Advanced Honors English courses in the 9th and 10th grades prepare students interested in undertaking the significant rigors of Advanced Placement English courses in the 11th and 12th grades.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- Courses designed as Advanced Placement (AP) are taught under guidelines established by [The College Board](#).
- AP courses are college-level courses. Students enrolled in AP courses will be challenged at the highest level of academic difficulty available in a high school setting.
- The AP curriculum consists of a high level of rigor in content complexity and requires significant independent learning by the student.
- Students who take AP courses may elect to take the accompanying Advanced Placement Examination given at the conclusion of the course.
- If a student earns a grade of 3, 4, or 5 on an AP exam it is possible to receive college credit for that particular AP course while gaining tuition savings.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The Advanced Placement test for college credit is *optional*. If a student chooses to take the test he/she will be responsible for the payment of the testing fee.