

AMCHS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

MYTH VS. FACT ABOUT THE 3 TYPES OF ENGLISH CLASSES

MYTH 1

Myth: English I, or on-level English I, is for remediation.
Fact: English I is the appropriate English course for the majority of students coming to AMCHS next year. In English I, students are taught according to the TEKS for the course, and the course will prepare them for college. Students will grow as readers and writers. Instruction is scaffolded to help students succeed, but students are also expected to seek tutoring to reinforce concepts when needed. If a student is taking multiple advanced classes, English I on-level might be the best choice in order to balance the workload.

MYTH 2

Myth: Pre-AP is for geniuses; Honors is for smart people.
Fact: Both classes are for hard workers; which one is right for you depends on you!
In both Pre-AP and Honors, we work with you to help you develop the skills you need to be successful. For both classes, you need to come in with a willingness to work hard and learn. The smartest person in the world will not be successful in either class if he or she is not willing to do so.

MYTH 3

Myth: Pre-AP is harder than Honors.
Fact: Which course is harder depends on you. Since both Pre-AP and Honors receive 10 points added to the GPA (as long as you get a 75 or higher), we work hard to make sure that Pre-AP is not harder than Honors. However, the types of assignment are different. Both are challenging, rigorous academic experiences that will prepare you for college. The main difference is Pre-AP will prepare you to take the AP test during your junior or senior year to earn up to 9 hours of college credit, depending on the university and test scores.

MYTH 4

Myth: Pre-AP receives more GPA points than Honors.
Fact: They both get 10 points added to the GPA as long as you earn a 75 average or higher.
Since both Pre-AP and Honors receive 10 points added to the GPA, both classes are challenging. You can reasonably expect your average to drop 10 points from where it is during 8th grade advanced English; the 10 points tends to cancel out that drop, not add extra points to your average. Making an A on your report card in Pre-AP or Honors English in high school takes a different amount of effort from making an A in advanced English in 8th grade.



MYTH 5

Myth: Colleges and universities view Honors and Pre-AP courses in the same way.
Fact: Most high schools only offer advanced courses labeled Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate, so Honors is an unusual designation.

For the most part, universities will compare our students to other students from AMCHS when considering admissions. However, due to issues with grade inflation, some universities have started to recalculate GPAs for students and eliminate the bonus points awarded for locally designated advanced courses, such as Honors. It may not make a difference at your university of choice, but it is worth researching. The Advanced Placement program is a worldwide, recognized program that is audited to insure consistent standards in all AP courses, and most of the nation's colleges and universities have an AP policy granting incoming students credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP exam grades. According to the CollegeBoard, "A 2002 study by the University of Texas at Austin shows that among students with the same academic abilities (same SAT/ACT scores, same class rank), AP students scoring a 3 or higher perform better in advanced college courses than students who participated in concurrent enrollment or students who did not skip any college courses" (2005). Students enrolled in AP courses in high school are also more likely to graduate from college in 4 years instead of 5 or 6 (Camara 2003). For more information, visit apcentral.collegeboard.com.

AMCHS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WHICH ENGLISH I COURSE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

ENGLISH I	ENGLISH I HONORS	ENGLISH I PRE-AP
<p>Students enrolled in all English I courses are expected to have mastered 8th grade learning objectives as outlined in the TEKS in order to build upon these foundational skills to achieve success on the English I End of Course Exam (STAAR Test).</p>	<p>Students enrolled in these courses demonstrate willingness to complete frequent homework and responsible behavior (completes make-up work when absent and follows directions independently on assignments). Students must be able and willing to work independently outside of class. Strong analytical writing skills and strong independent reading abilities (or a willingness to develop them) are necessities. They show strong mastery of grade level TEKS. Honors & Pre-AP are 4 year programs, and we do not encourage students to change programs in the middle of high school. If you want to take AP as a junior or senior, then enroll in Pre-AP as a freshman.</p>	<p>Students meet all the requirements for honors and express a desire to take intellectual risks and work at an accelerated pace. In addition, they show a strong interest in taking AP tests for up to 9 hours of college credit.</p>

