

English Honors

The course, Balancing Freedom and Responsibility, is available for academically gifted students to investigate the balance between freedom of choice and responsibility for one's actions. Given an in-depth exploration of selected literature, students will develop expository and creative expression as well as demonstrate formal use of the English language. Students will present original verbal and non-verbal forms of communication. Teacher recommendation and application through the prescribed selection process is required. Students who choose the 9H class must agree to remain in the class for at least the first trimester. In order to remain in the honors program, students must maintain a B- or better average. This course is not recommended for students who do not like to read, write, or do research.

Technology Systems

Students will experience working at new computer interfaced technology modules. They will rotate through areas such as a communications island with digital imaging and desktop publishing, a testing and data acquisition island using aerodynamics and electronics modules, a fabrication island where models of alternative energy systems are assembled, a robotic and automation work cell, a pneumatic module, and many others. Opportunities for problem solving and design will give students the chance to apply the technologies they are learning. (Extensive Computer Use Required.)

MORE ENRICHMENT

Summer Trips

United States History - Following their academic class-time, students will travel to Gettysburg, Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York City, Baltimore, and Boston. During the travel experience, students will be camping at commercial campgrounds and preparing about one-half of their meals.

Marine Biology - Learning will be conducted with field trips that include a class at Acadia National Park, a tour of Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, a whale watching tour, and a visit to a lobster hatchery. From these experiences students will receive information about scientific methods, classification, evolution, genetics, ecology, math and technology.

Earth Science Field Experience - This course allows students to have academic experience in the classroom, followed and reinforced by a field excursion to the San Juan Mountain in Colorado. Includes site work at Silverton, CO.

More information is available at <http://ushistorytrip.com>

HONORS & ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The Advanced Placement Program is a cooperative educational endeavor of secondary schools, colleges, and The College Board. AP courses are offered in more than 10,000 high schools in every state in the United States. They are recognized in nearly 3000 U.S. and foreign colleges and universities which grant credit, appropriate placement, or both to students who have performed satisfactorily on AP exams. Approximately 1200 institutions will grant sophomore college standing to students who have demonstrated competence in three or more of these examinations.

Advanced Placement has specific course descriptions and examinations for each AP course. The examination in most of these subjects covers the equivalent of a full year college course. The state of Indiana pays for the AP exams in science and mathematics. Students who take AP exams are enrolled in an accelerated program in order to receive appropriate preparation for later honors and AP classes.

Advanced Placement Evaluation: Examinations are offered in May. Most exams last 3-3.5 hours; some are shorter. They are administered here at Central. They contain a section that is a free response, either essay or problem solving, and another section consisting of multiple choice questions. In June, the exams are graded; the grades are reported to students in July. AP Scholars Awards are granted for college-level performance (grades of 3 or better on a 1-5 scale).

Honors classes are designed to present the standard curriculum in an accelerated format and they also provide the opportunity for students to develop their higher-level thinking skills. Honors classes are offered in the following subject areas: art, English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Advanced Placement Art
Advanced Placement English
Advanced Placement Mathematics
Advanced Placement Psychology
Advanced Placement Economics
Advanced Placement Government
Advanced Placement United States History
Advanced Placement World History
Advanced Placement Sciences -
Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
Advanced Placement Music Theory



ELKHART CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Elkhart Community Schools



The Freshman Honors Academy



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ELKHART, INDIANA 46516

ON THE WEB AT:
BLUEBLAZERS.ORG/FRESHHONORS.HTM

PHONE US:
574-295-4700



FRESHMAN HONORS ACADEMY @ ECHS

Knowledge is the foundation for a successful life.



The mission of Elkhart Central High School is to teach all students to think critically, to adapt to change and to work cooperatively as responsible citizens.

Our aim is to provide intellectual access to information through learning activities that are integrated into the curriculum and that help all students achieve information literacy by developing effective cognitive strategies for selecting, retrieving, analyzing, evaluating, synthesizing, creating, and communicating information in all formats and in all content areas of the curriculum.

We are creating the Honors Academy to better meet the academic needs of students. The Honors Academy is sheltered from the rest of the building because the schedules do not align with each other until fourth period. Also, teachers in the academy work as a team to meet the needs of the students.

Our mission is to provide our students an opportunity to take college classes in their sophomore, junior and senior years.

A word about ISTEP, SAT, ACT scores among the Blazer Honor & AP students...

The Indiana Department of Education web site shows that Elkhart Central High School students who received a grade average of "C" or better scored higher than the state average for the SAT.

Geometry I Honors

Honors Geometry I will include all the topics of the Geometry I course. Emphasis will be placed on development of reasoning skills, visual thinking skills, problem-solving and communication of mathematical ideas, both written and oral. Students will frequently be asked to work cooperatively with others to investigate geometric topics. Students must apply through a selection process.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

The Honors Academy School Day...

- Arrive at the regular time
- Students can take six classes during the school day.
- Students are on a different schedule for passing periods. They are staggered from the rest of the building.
- Students can take two electives per trimester.
- All extra curricular activities are available.

How do you get into the Freshman Honors Academy?

1. Pick up an application from your counselor
2. All students who qualify for honors classes are eligible.
3. All students with a GPA of 2.7 and higher are eligible to submit an application to the academy.

Algebra I

Algebra I provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students who will take other advanced college-preparatory courses. In particular, the instructional program in this course provides for the use of algebraic skills in a wide range of problem-solving situations. The concept of function is emphasized throughout the course. Topics include: (1) properties of real numbers, (2) solution sets, (3) basic operations with polynomials, (4) solving quadratic equations and systems, (5) use of exponents, and (6) introductory topics from statistics and probability.



Biology Honors

The theme for this honors level biology course is Balancing Freedom and Responsibility. This course considers the diversity of organisms with regard to structure and function as each organism interacts with its environment as well as the energy demands needed for the maintenance of the organisms and the continuance of the species. This course is laboratory oriented, and the student is required to engage in independent investigation and thorough study, often of self-selected topics and issues. Students communicate/express conceptual understandings in formal and informal social interaction, informative presentations and exposition using oral and verbal skills and incorporating nonverbal visual arts as well as performing arts. Must apply through a selection process.

Prerequisite: Algebra I or Pre-Algebra concurrently

Principles of the Biomedical Sciences

This course provides an introduction to the biomedical sciences through exciting "hands-on" projects and problems. Student work involves the study of human medicine, research processes and an introduction to bio-informatics. Students investigate the human body systems and various health conditions including heart disease, diabetes, sickle-cell disease, hypercholesterolemia, and infectious diseases. A theme through the course is to determine the factors that led to the death of a fictional person. After determining the factors responsible for the death, the students investigate lifestyle choices and medical treatments that might have prolonged the person's life. Key biological concepts including: homeostasis, metabolism, inheritance of traits, feedback systems, and defense against disease are embedded in the curriculum.

Engineering principles included are: the design process, feedback loops, fluid dynamics, and the relationship of structure to function are incorporated in the curriculum where appropriate. The course is designed to provide an overview of all the courses in the Biomedical Sciences program and to lay the scientific foundation necessary for student success in the subsequent courses.