



CVHS Science Department- Academic Expectations for Honors/Pre-AP Courses



Honors courses provide students with the factual knowledge and critical thinking skills needed for a more in-depth approach to beginning science courses. Honors courses help prepare students who intend to continue their science studies in the more advanced AP science curriculum.

The below chart provides an approximation of the time and assignments for each honors course offered in the Science Department. In order to make appropriate and informed choices at CVHS, it is to your advantage to understand the rigor of each course.

<i>Area of Study</i>	<i># of pages to read to prepare for each class</i>	<i># of hours to study and prepare for each class</i>	<i>Tests/quizzes</i>	<i>Major Projects</i>	<i>Analytical Skills</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Honors Biology <i>Lab-based course - Study of biologic function and structure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●15 pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●30-45 minutes class content ●90 minutes per week devoted to independent research project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●1 quiz per week ● 1 test ~ every 3 weeks ● Midterm Exam ●Final Exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- worth 10% of final grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Independent-Research Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of annual grade - completed outside of class ●1 project per curriculum unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●SOL based questions on formal assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- higher-order thinking -- strong reading comprehension -- application of content -- not strictly memorization ●Inquiry-based labs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall course grade includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - homework - science IRP - labs - midterm exam - classwork - final exam - quizzes/tests
<p style="text-align: center;">Honors Chemistry <i>Lab-based course - study of matter</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●5–10 pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●30-45 minutes ●no late work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●1 quiz every week ●1 Test every 3–4 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Independent-Research Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of annual grade - completed outside of class ●Maintain a Lab notebook throughout the year ●1 formal lab report/quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●critical thinking skills ●higher order math skills ●algebra II co-requisite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Course goes above and beyond General Chemistry ●prepares a student to take College level Chemistry in the future.
<p style="text-align: center;">Honors Geosystems <i>Lab-based course - Qualitative and quantitative study of the major earth systems.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●10-15 pages per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Approximately 1 hour per class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Tests are given at the end of each subsection of Geosystems. ●There is a significant Free Response portion of every test. ●Quizzes are given once a week using online site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Independent-Research Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of annual grade - completed outside of class ●Final Capstone end of year project done after SOL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Significant Data Analysis ●It is county policy the honors course follow the same rigor and pace of the honors math classes. ●Honors Geosystems follows curriculum recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Significant amount of time and effort needed to do the independent research project. ●Students with basic English skills or who have just left the ESOL program will struggle with the heavy vocabulary component of this class.
<p style="text-align: center;">Honors Physics <i>Lab-based course - Study of forces and motion.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●10 pages per week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 hour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●3 tests each quarter which determine the majority of the quarter grade ●1-3 quizzes per unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Independent-Research Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of annual grade - completed outside of class ●maintain a laboratory notebook throughout course ●completion of a large experimental project during 3rd and 4th quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●strong math skills required ●topics covered in geometry and algebra 2 used throughout the year ●strong problem solving skills necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Level Thinking Skills and complex math used daily