



# How are Gifted Students Served in Effingham County's High Schools?

Mrs. Kelli White, High School Gifted Facilitator

**“Education is not the filling of a pail,  
but the lighting of a fire.”**

~William Butler Yeats

***High School Gifted Education Goals:***

- Help students appreciate their gifts and accept themselves for who they are
- Offer courses that provide a differentiated curriculum that meets the student’s needs
- Create a balance of rigor and joy in the classroom
- Assist students in discovering and pursuing their passions in high school and beyond

# Gifted Education in High School

## ***ECHS & SEHS Offer:***

- Advanced academic courses in math, science, social studies, English, and foreign language(s)
- Advanced fine arts courses in studio art and music
- CTAE Pathways developed especially for the bright, highly motivated, high-achieving student at ECA
- Dual Enrollment for the highly exceptional student

# What is the Scholar Endorsement?

*The Scholar Endorsement is a prestigious diploma seal that students earn by adhering to a highly rigorous curriculum.*

## **Parents & Students need to consider:**

- The student's ability
- Their enthusiasm
- Their other commitments
- Their high school/post-secondary goals

# Create an “Action Plan”

- Set academic and personal goals to accomplish your freshman year. **Plan to take challenging classes!**
- Get involved in activities at school and the community. Keep a folder with activities, awards, etc.
- Start researching scholarship opportunities.

# Create an “Action Plan” (cont.)

- Register to take the PSAT as a 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade student. The PSAT is only administered once each school year and is important for SAT preparation. Students **MUST** take the PSAT their junior year in order to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship.
- Plan to take the SAT/ACT in the Winter/Spring of your junior year and plan to take two or three times. Some universities “Super Score!”



# What are Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses? Dual Enrollment?

Mrs. Kate Keith, SEHS Counselor

# Regular vs. Honors Courses

- *Both are taught in accordance with the Georgia Performance Standards, but differ in depth, complexity, and pace.*
- An Honors course is a rigorous course requiring advanced content study, challenging intellectual engagement, daily homework, extensive critical reading, and outside-of-class research and/or projects.
- Honors courses are designed to prepare students for subsequent AP coursework as well as enhanced admissions consideration at competitive post-secondary institutions.
- **Five** points are added to each nine week grade for Honors courses.

# Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

- All AP Course Descriptions are developed by the College Board, a national non-profit organization which also administers other programs, like the PSAT and SAT.
- The Course Description outlines the course content, describes the curricular goals, and provides sample examination questions.
- Highly qualified AP teachers have the flexibility to determine how this content is presented.
- **Five** points are added to each nine week grade for AP courses.

# Why Take Honors/AP Courses?

- **You can gain an edge in the college admission process.** College admission officers look for students who take rigorous courses. It shows them that you like to challenge yourself.
- **You can earn college credit.** Students have the opportunity to take an exam each May, which could earn them college credit. More than 90% of four-year colleges in the U.S. give students credit, advanced placement, or both on the basis of AP Exam scores. By entering college with AP credits, you'll have the time to move into upper level courses, pursue a double-major, or study abroad.

# Why Take Honors/AP Courses? (continued)

- **You will be better prepared for college.** AP Courses can help you acquire the skills and habits you'll need to be successful in college. You'll improve your writing skills, sharpen your problem-solving abilities, and develop time management skills, discipline, and study habits. [www.collegeboard.com/students](http://www.collegeboard.com/students)
- **You can boost your high school GPA.** Because Honors/AP classes are more difficult than regular classes, five points are added to each nine week grade.

# AP and the Cost of College

## Research Findings

- ***Finding 1:*** Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to graduate in four years.
- ***Finding 2:*** Students who take longer to graduate from a public college or university typically pay between \$8,000 and \$19,000 for each additional year.
- ***Finding 3:*** Taking AP courses increases eligibility for scholarships and makes candidates more attractive to colleges.

# Enrolling in Honors/AP Courses

- **Teacher Recommendation:** Students enroll in Honors/AP courses by obtaining approval from their current academic teacher in the specified content area. These course recommendations are based on the student's academic performance in their present class, not on their potential.
- **Parent Override Policy:** A parent always has the right to override a course recommendation made by a teacher.

***WARNING!*** By signing an override:

- You assume all responsibility for his/her grades
- The course will not be changed once he/she enrolls in it

# What is “Dual Enrollment?”

- The University System of Georgia (USG) formed a Dual Enrollment program because it recognized the need to provide talented high school **juniors** and **seniors** with options for advanced study.
- This program allows qualifying high school students the opportunity to enroll in USG colleges and universities and receive college credits while completing their high school graduation requirements (i.e. Armstrong, GSU)
- Students can continue to participate in high school activities and graduate with their class.

# **“Dual Enrollment” (cont.)**

The University System of Georgia offers two residential programs:

- **The Advanced Academy of Georgia**  
Located at the University of West Georgia
- **G.A.M.E.S. (Georgia Academy of Aviation, Mathematics, Engineering, & Science)**  
Located at Middle Georgia College

***Students who are interested in participating in this program should contact their school counselor toward the end of their sophomore or junior year . Together they can explore whether or not this program would be a “good fit.”***