



CELESTE HIGH SCHOOL

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Requirements for Honors Courses at Celeste High School

Honors classes offered at CHS are more academically intensive and faster paced than regular courses. Because of this, each course is weighted on the GPA scale. In order to enroll in any honors course at CHS, students must meet at least three (3) of these four (4) criteria:

- An average of 90 or better in the previous course for the subject
- A teacher referral (see attached)
- A score equivalent to the midpoint between the Masters Grade Level and the Meets Grade Level scores on the appropriate STAAR
- Achieve an excellent score on a subject test designed by the district

Students new to the district who were enrolled in honors courses or scheduled to be enrolled in honors courses will automatically qualify.

In addition to meeting the criteria described above, each honors course will require a summer project to be assigned by the instructor. Failure to complete this project will result in the student being removed from the course.

Once enrolled, each instructor will provide students with a contract of the expectations required for remaining in the course. These contracts will include the understanding that to remain in the course, students must exhibit a strong standard of academic excellence, exemplary behavior, and moral bearing. Any form of plagiarism and/or cheating will be grounds for dismissal.

Students are expected to maintain an average of 70 or above in order to remain in the course(s), and they must maintain an average of 80 or above in order to enroll in the subsequent honors course for the subject, including dual credit courses.

There are many benefits of taking honors courses during high school, including:

- Honors courses are excellent preparation for experiencing higher level course requirements and will help you be more prepared to take college level courses.
- Honors courses are a great way of challenging yourself and they offer you the opportunity to grow academically.
- Honors courses will help you improve your study skills to be more successful for the rest of high school and college.

What are the characteristics of a student who would be a good fit for honors courses?

- You are always well prepared (keep up with reading, turn in assignments on time, study for tests, etc.)

- You are a strong student academically and have high motivation to be successful. You have experienced high achievement in previous courses with little stress or need for extra help and have a strong intuitive sense for the subject matter.
- You take a strong interest in what you are learning and ask questions about the things you want to learn more about.
- You like to challenge yourself and are positive and resourceful when faced with a problem.
- You are a critical thinker and are able to recognize and formulate problems and use deductive reasoning to solve them.
- You work well independently without repeated direction.
- You are good at balancing several responsibilities and have strong time management

Should you have any questions regarding these requirements, please feel free to contact the high school office.

(please sign below, detach, and return to the school)

I have read and fully understand the requirements for enrollment in honors courses. I understand the time, responsibility, and dedication required to be successful in an honors course, and by signing below I signify that I will make the commitment to be successful.

Student signature

Date

I have read and fully understand the requirements for enrollment in honors courses. I understand that the commitment made by my student means that s/he will be asked to challenge her/himself academically, and I will support this effort.

Parent signature

Date

CHS office use only

Dual credit permission form received by: _____

Date: _____

Honors Course Academic Reference

Name of student: _____

Date: _____

Person completing this form: _____

In which course did you teach this student? _____

Please fill out the table below, rating the student from 1-5 in each category (1=low, 5=high). You are welcome to make any additional comments in the space provided at the bottom of this form. Please take into consideration the qualities of a strong candidate:

- ❖ always well prepared (keeps up with reading, turns in assignments on time, studies for tests, participates in class, etc.)
- ❖ strong academically with a high motivation to be successful
- ❖ experienced high achievement in previous courses with little stress or need for extra help and has a strong intuitive sense for the subject matter
- ❖ strong interest in what s/he is learning and asks questions about the things s/he wants to learn more about
- ❖ like to challenge her/himself and are positive and resourceful when faced with a problem.
- ❖ critical thinkers and are able to recognize and formulate problems and use deductive reasoning to solve them.
- ❖ work well independently without repeated direction.
- ❖ good at balancing several responsibilities and have strong time management

Quality of Work (puts forth maximum effort, completes all assignments)	Timeliness (consistently meets deadlines)	Academic Potential (demonstrates academic skills and a desire to learn)	Leadership (good influence on peers, upholds school ideals, takes responsibility)	Honesty (no record of cheating or intentional dishonesty)

Comments: _____
