

# Are You Ready For AP/Honors?



Each year, Torrance Unified School District offers students the opportunity to take classes at the local high school as a way to advance in various subject areas. Although these classes are quite demanding, most students who attend these classes are successful. This questionnaire is designed to help students decide whether these classes are appropriate for them. Please answer the questions honestly and discuss the results with your parents. The more informed your decision is, the more successful you'll be.

**We interviewed students currently in these honors classes. They suggested we pose these questions:**

- ☞ Are you **INTERESTED** in the subject?
- ☞ Do you **ALWAYS** complete all your homework and turn it in **ON TIME**?
- ☞ Do you have **GOOD STUDY HABITS**? Do you find time each day to study even if you don't necessarily have homework?
- ☞ Are you **MOTIVATED** by a challenge? Do you have the **PERSEVERANCE** to complete a task even if it is very difficult?
- ☞ Do you take **RESPONSIBILITY** for your work? Do you go above and beyond what's expected, participate in class, and remain very attentive in class?
- ☞ When problems arise, do you **SEEK HELP** from others?
- ☞ Are you **SUCCESSFUL** in all of your classes, even those that seem less interesting?

Look carefully at the key words here and rate yourself. If you can honestly answer yes to each question, then you are probably well suited to enter this program. If you answered "**maybe**" or "**no**" to some of these questions, you may wish to wait a year and work on those habits to improve them, and then apply for these classes as a ninth grade student. And remember, if you decide to take an AP or Honors class, you will be required to sign a commitment form that you must remain in the class for the entire school year.



**Read the back of this page for more important information!**

**What is your motivation for taking these accelerated classes?**

The reason you are interested in taking these classes may give you an indication whether it is a good decision for you. As you look through this list compiled by students in the program, write down your own motivation for taking these

classes and be honest with yourself.

- ☞ I wanted a challenge.
- ☞ My friends are taking the class.
- ☞ AP and Honors courses look good on my transcript.
- ☞ My parents told me to take honors.
- ☞ Friends or siblings told me honors courses are worth the effort.
- ☞ I was bribed.
- ☞ My middle school teacher encouraged me.
- ☞ Taking honors classes will help me get into college.
- ☞ I heard there were a lot of fun labs.

Remember that each student has individual strengths and weaknesses. Several of these reasons are not based on student interest or ability and may reflect that you are not quite ready for these courses. Please don't rank yourself against others. You are the person who will attend the class, you must complete the assignments, and you alone will take the tests.

**Finally, a few wise words from current students regarding what they wished they had known when they were signing up for honors classes last year.**

**I wish I had known:**

- ☞ that the tests are so difficult.
  - ☞ that there is so much homework, and it is so time consuming.
  - ☞ what the content of the course is.
  - ☞ that there would be a need for a change in my study habits.
  - ☞ that the information I learn must be applied rather than memorized.
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We hope you spend some time thinking and considering what would be best for you. If you have further questions, please see Don Glavich (GATE Coordinator) in Room C213 or email him at [glavich.donald@tUSD.org](mailto:glavich.donald@tUSD.org).