

HONORS PLACEMENT INFORMATION



Dear Parents & Students,

Welcome to Corona del Sol High School. We are excited to have you join the Aztec family.

The purpose of this guide is to give you an opportunity to make an informed decision regarding the differences in the core courses we offer. We want our students to be challenged and to select courses where they will be successful.

Thank you,

Deb Benedict

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Assistant Principal of Academics

Please contact the department chairs or me if you have any questions.

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Freshman English or Honors Freshman English?

Every Corona student must earn four (4) English core credits to graduate from high school. You will have a choice freshman year of two classes: Freshman English or Honors Freshman English. Consider the following comparative information in order to select the best English placement.

	FRESHMAN ENGLISH	HONORS FRESHMAN ENGLISH
Official Course Description	This course includes the study of grammar, composition, library orientation and research, vocabulary, spelling, literature, oral expression, reading skills and study skills.	This course is designed to challenge academically those students who are able to work beyond the curriculum of regular Freshman English. This course includes a study of vocabulary, advanced grammar, advanced composition, extensive research, and a survey of world literature.
Home-work Level	Moderate (Averaging 15-30 minutes daily)	Extensive (Averaging 45-60 minutes daily)
Degree of Difficulty	Average to Above Average	High
Summer Reading	No	YES https://www.tempeunion.org/Page/1508
Curricular Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Literature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> —<i>The Odyssey</i> —<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> —Literature Circles —Varied short stories, essays, and poetry ◆ Vocabulary Study ◆ Grammar Study ◆ Composition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Basic paragraph writing —Multi-paragraph essays ◆ Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Literature & Literary Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —<i>Bless Me, Ultima</i> —<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> —<i>The Odyssey</i> —<i>Great Expectations</i> —<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> —Independent reading novels every quarter including fiction, nonfiction, and informational text with independent literary analysis —Varied short stories, essays, and poetry ◆ Vocabulary Study & Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Two levels above grade 9 study —Etymologies/Word Origins ◆ Grammar Study & Application ◆ Composition & Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —Multi-paragraph essay assignments: literary analysis, rhetorical analysis, argumentation —Timed writings: literary analysis, rhetorical analysis, argumentation —Full-length research project and paper on social issues in literature —Using/Documenting Quotations —Journal Writing ◆ Formal and Informal Oral Presentations

Honors Freshman English Expectations

To assist in your successful placement in Honors English at Corona del Sol, please carefully review the following expectations that have been established for students in this program. It is expected that each student will demonstrate the following at all times:

Attendance: Excellent daily attendance is essential to success in an Honors class.

Attitude: Positive attitude and a spirit of cooperation with fellow classmates and teacher, an enthusiasm for learning and reading, active participation in class discussions and projects, and pride in doing original and unique work are all key to success in Honors coursework.

Performance: It is recommended that students in an Honors English course will

- ◆ Achieve a consistent grade of an “A” or “B” in 8th Grade Honors English.
- ◆ **Complete summer reading** and study questions thoroughly prior to the first day of school. Failure to complete and turn in the summer reading assignment on the first day of school will result in a grade of zero (0) for the assignment. Additional time will not be given in order to complete the assignment and late work will not be accepted for points.
- ◆ Score a 70% or above on the summer reading test(s). Failure to meet this minimum standard will result in a discussion of English placement.
- ◆ Display critical thinking skills and depth of thought.
- ◆ Demonstrate a willingness to read substantial amounts of material - both independently and as part of the class, as well as a willingness to strengthen composition skills in various genres with a focus on the process of writing and revision
- ◆ Complete challenging coursework requiring substantial time outside of class in a consistent and timely manner by meeting all assignment deadlines.
- ◆ Display academic integrity by reading all assigned materials (not summarized versions) and avoiding plagiarism and cheating.

Please Note: There is summer reading required for all Honors English classes.

Summer reading assignments can be found on the Corona del Sol English Department web page at the following web address: <https://www.tempeunion.org/Page/1508>.



Geometry or Honors Geometry ?

Every Corona student must earn four (4) Math core credits to graduate from high school. Algebra 1 is the first math class. If Algebra 1 has been completed, students will choose between Geometry and Honors Geometry.

Geometry

Time commitment (average)
15-30 minutes daily

Level of difficulty/challenge

There is a significant amount of abstract concepts in this course, so it can be challenging for some students. Students in this class may do the "average," straight forward problems related to a new topic.

Pace

Several new topics are introduced at a basic level with some application to real-world scenarios.

Depth of knowledge/understanding

Many new concepts are introduced at a basic level with some application to real-world scenarios.

Strong foundational skills

Many of the problems here have numbers that work out neatly. There is significant review of prior skills.

Use of prior knowledge

Students are typically given relevant information within the context of a problem. Problems are usually straight forward in terms of what is given and what students are asked to find.

Honors Geometry

Time commitment (average)
30-45 minutes daily

Level of difficulty/challenge

The problems in this class are at a much higher level of difficulty, even though some of the concepts are the same. Students will be required to think critically in class and when completing homework.

Pace

This class is fast-paced with new topics being presented daily. Students are expected to memorize, conceptualize and build upon theorems, postulates and definitions daily.

Depth of knowledge/understanding

There is a great deal of interpretation and critical thinking, requiring logical thought of abstract concepts. The course is heavy in two column proofs, and students are expected to complete proofs throughout the year. There will be a two part final, the 1st part being 2-column proofs.

Strong foundational skills

There is little review of prior skills, and the students are expected to have a strong foundational knowledge of basic algebra skills, including solving equations, factoring, and graphing linear functions.

Use of prior knowledge

Many problems require students to draw from previously learned material in order to apply it to a current problem. Problems may require significant interpretation and a plan before solving. Multiple parts or steps in problems are not uncommon.

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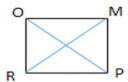
Geometry or Honors Geometry?	
Geometry	Honors Geometry

Repetition

Students in this class may do homework problems with significant repetition of skills and little variation in the types of problems with which they are working.

Sample problem (Triangle Proof)

Given: ROMP is a square
 Prove: $\overline{RM} \cong \overline{PO}$



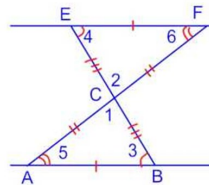
Statement	Reasons
1. ROMP is a square	1. Given
2. $\overline{RO} \cong \overline{MP}$	2.
3.	3. Definition of square
4. $\angle R \cong \angle M$	4.
5.	5. SAS Congruence
6. $\overline{RM} \cong \overline{PO}$	6.

Repetition

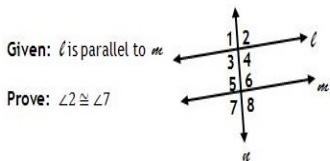
Not as much repetition of the same types of problems; problems typically vary considerably in terms of given information, requested information, or general format.

Sample Problem (Finding volume of objects.)

Given: $\angle 3 \cong \angle 4$
 $\angle 5 \cong \angle 6$
 $\overline{AB} \cong \overline{EF}$
 $\overline{AC} \cong \overline{FC}$
 $\overline{BC} \cong \overline{EC}$
 Prove: $\triangle ABC \cong \triangle FEC$

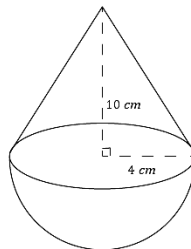


Sample problem (Parallel Lines and Planes)



Statements	Reasons
1. l is parallel to m	1. Given
2.	2. Parallel lines \rightarrow corresponding angles \cong
3. $\angle 6 \cong \angle 7$	3.
4.	4. Transitive property of \cong

Sample Problem (Triangle Proof)



Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 ?

If students have completed Algebra 1 and Geometry, students will choose between Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2

Algebra 2

Algebra 2

Time Commitment (average)

15-30 minutes daily

Level of difficulty/challenge

There is a significant amount of new material in this course, so it is challenging. Students in this class may do the “average,” straight-forward problems related to a new topic.

Pace: Several new topics are introduced each week, with some additional practice time built in.

Depth of knowledge/understanding: Many new concepts are introduced at a basic level because most topics will be revisited again next year in Pre-Calculus.

Strong foundational skills: Many of the problems here have numbers that work out neatly; problems and solutions rarely involve “messy” values. There is significant review of prior skills.

Use of prior knowledge: Students are typically given relevant information within the context of a problem. Problems are usually straight-forward in terms of what is given and what students are asked to find.

Applied problems: Some, though, not with every assignment

Repetition: Students in this class may do homework problems with significant repetition of skills and little variation in the types of problems with which they are working.

Honors Algebra 2

Honors Algebra 2

Time Commitment (average)

30-45 minutes daily

Level of difficulty/challenge:

The problems in this class are at a much higher level of difficulty, even though some of the concepts are the same. Students in this class do the harder version of most problems.

Pace: This class is the equivalent of two years of math in one, so it is very fast-paced with multiple new topics being presented daily.

Depth of knowledge/understanding: There is a great deal of interpretation and application of concepts, requiring deep understanding. Many concepts and skills will be revisited often throughout the year.

Strong foundational skills: “Messy” values (fractions, irrational numbers) are the norm in problems and solutions. There is little review of prior skills.

Use of prior knowledge: Many problems require students to draw from previously learned material in order to apply it to a current problem. For example, a question might require knowledge of a specific formula from Geometry in order to set up and solve a problem. Problems may require significant interpretation and a plan before solving. Multiple parts or steps in problems are not uncommon.

Applied problems: Nearly all daily assignments contain some application real-world problems. “Word Problems”

Repetition: Not as much repetition of the same types of problems; problems typically vary considerably in terms of given information, requested information, or general format.

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Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 ?
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Algebra 2

Honors Algebra 2

Sample problem (properties of exponents)

$$\left(\frac{x^8}{16y^{-2}}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

Sample problem (properties of exponents)

$$\left(\frac{(2x^2)^{-2}}{8x^{-4}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Sample problem (multiply polynomials)

$$(2x-1)(x+1)$$

Sample problem (multiply polynomials)

$$(x-3+i)(x-3-i)$$

Sample problem (rationalize denominator)

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

Sample problem (rationalize denominator)

$$\frac{2x}{\sqrt{3x^3}}$$

Trigonometry example: Graph

$$y = 2 \sin x$$

Trigonometry example (simplify)

$\frac{2 \sin x \cos x}{\cos^2 x - \sin^2 x}$

Chem-Physics or Honors Chem-Physics ?

Every Corona student must earn three (3) Science core credits to graduate from high school. ***Chem-Physics or Honors Chem-Physics is strongly recommended as a foundational course for all students.***

Chem-Physics Foundations

Chem-Physics Foundations is a lab science focused on integrating algebra, chemistry, and physics fundamentals and building reasoning skills that will serve students well in biology, chemistry, and physics.

Chem-Physics is strongly recommended as a foundational course for all students in preparation for future science courses.

Honors Chem-Physics

Honors Chem-Physics Foundations is a challenging lab science focused on integrating algebra, chemistry, and physics fundamentals and building reasoning skills that will serve students well in Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, and Honors Physics.

The Honors Chem-Physics curriculum is for advanced students who are passionate about science and further extends the concepts covered to include more complex analyses and ideas that prepare students for future honors science courses.

Chem-Physics is strongly recommended as a foundational course for all honors students in preparation for future science courses, including Honors Biology.

Students should be prepared to devote 1-2 hours to science homework each night.

Honors Biology

Course Description

Honors Biology is an extremely challenging advanced **college level** lab science course offered for dual enrollment through Rio Salado Community College.

Honors Biology is designed as an exploratory biology course with the express purpose of exposing outstanding students to scientific concepts and principals in the area of living organisms.

An in-depth study of traditional biology concepts will be supplemented with research projects and inquiry-based labs.

Students are expected to have strong skills in graphing and graphical analysis upon entering the class.

Students are not only expected to know the content, but they must understand it and be able to apply it to new situations.

Expectations

Homework and the notebook represent only 25% of a student's grade.

The majority of the grade, 75%, is earned via exams, as is the model at Rio Salado.

In order to do well in the course, students must study with the intent to learn on a daily basis.

Students should be prepared to devote 1-2 hours to science homework each night; ***students electing to skip the foundational chem-physics course should expect to devote 2-3 hours to science homework each night.***

Students enrolled in Honors Algebra 2 or higher are most likely to experience success in this course.

Social Studies

To meet minimum state requirements, students must take three (3) years of Social Studies which the Tempe Union High School District commences at the sophomore level with either World History/ Geography or AP World History. However, for the college-bound student, we recommend an additional year of Social Studies coursework--starting at the freshman level. At Corona del Sol, we offer a full year of (Honors) World Geography taken during the freshman year, to be followed by a full year of (Honors) World History taken during the sophomore year. This option meets, and better yet, exceeds the state and district requirement for Social Studies. This course of study begins in the freshman year and is designed not only for the serious academically focused student but also for the student looking to learn more about his/her world and its cultures. Students who have enjoyed their Social Studies classes in the past are strongly encouraged to pursue this option.

A Bit of History.....

In 1977, the Corona del Sol Social Studies Department made a dedicated effort to create and promote a unique four-year Social Studies program for this community. Under the leadership of Dr. James McBride, this four-year program flourished, and quickly became the cornerstone of our department in the late 1980s.

The student who opts to pursue a full year of geography at the freshman level nurtures needed critical thinking skills and becomes better equipped to maneuver the social studies curriculum during his/her following three years at Corona. Students gain vital knowledge of the world in which we live, while building a solid foundation of study skills and academic discipline.

World Geography SST110

This course, when taken with World History (SST120) *meets and exceeds* our district's graduation requirement for Social Studies.

World Geography is a one-year elective course that encompasses both the physical and culture aspects of the discipline. Early emphasis is placed on the development and application of physical geographic knowledge including cartography, geomorphology, and meteorology.

These skills having been mastered, a cultural examination of the world's various ethnic regions is addressed during the remainder of the year. Elements including population studies, political ideologies, religions, cultural customs as well as current events of the world's major ethnic regions are discussed.



Honors World Geography

Honors World Geography is a one-year elective course that, when coupled with Honors World History (SST115) or (AP World History SST140) *meets and exceeds* our district's graduation requirement for Social Studies.

This course is designed for the serious student who meets the general criteria for honors level classes established by the district. The curriculum includes an examination for both the physical and cultural branches of geography.

Physical geography is explored first, including cartography, plate tectonics, and climatology. Once these skills are mastered and a foundation of demographics has been laid, a cultural approach to the world's major ethnic regions is explored at length-including but not limited to religions, types of governments, customs and traditions, and ethnicities. Also, technology is used to analyze and research — allowing students to better investigate current events and developments in geography in depth.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

Credit earned for course work completed by students prior to entering grade nine (9) will be awarded according to these guidelines:

- ◆ If the course work is posted on a high school transcript from TUHSD or another accredited high school, the course work will receive credit and the grade of “P” used in the calculation of GPA and rank.
- ◆ Students entering the TUHSD from Tempe Elementary School District or Kyrene School District with course work in math or Spanish may earn credit in the following ways:

Reference: [State Board of Education R7-2-302.02 (1)©(iv)]

Tri-District Articulation Agreement:

Math

In order to earn credit for a high school level math class taken while in middle school, a student must pass the course (both semesters) with a “D” or better. Students who accomplish this will have a P for “Pass” placed on the transcript. This “Pass” will not be calculated into class rank or GPA.

In order for credit to be issued to the student, upon successful completion of the course the student must also subsequently be enrolled in a TUHSD high school.

Tempe Elementry/Kyrene Spanish Articulation:

Students currently enrolled in Spanish 1-2 in Kyrene School District and/or Tempe Elementary School District, will be allowed to take the Spanish Placement Test. This test is administered at the feeder middle schools at the end of the school year. There will be no charge for the test. If “70%” or higher is earned, the student will receive one credit toward graduation with a grade of “P” assigned.

