

# PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY



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## PACS Course Levels

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Every school year, around this time, PACS high school students and parents will begin hearing presentations, receiving emails and scheduling meetings to discuss each student's course schedule for next school year. As we enter this season, it is important to have a good understanding of the different rigor options that are available at PACS. If not already, abbreviations such as AP, DE, and CP will become very familiar in the near future.

PACS is a college preparatory (CP) school and our basic level of courses are taught at the college preparatory level. If a student is not taking an advanced level course, their coursework is college preparatory at PACS.

Honors level courses are designed to be an increased level of rigor to the CP course. Because of the increased rigor, 5 points are added to a student's passing semester grade for Honors classes. Students that desire to enroll in an Honors course must earn an 88 or higher in the previous year's subject area course.

We are blessed at PACS to offer Dual Enrollment (DE) courses where students earn both high school course credit as well as college/university level course credit. Many schools offer Dual Enrollment coursework. Often-times, these courses are offered online or students take the course(s) on the actual campus of a local college or university. Prince, however, is blessed to have several faculty who meet the high level of qualifications to serve as both a PACS faculty member as well as an adjunct professor at the university level. Having these qualified teachers on our faculty allows Prince to offer Dual Enrollment courses on our campus, in a traditional format where students are earning credit for both PACS and the college/university. There are several requirements for students to enroll in a Dual Enrollment course. Some of these include course pre-requisites, previous content course grade and a minimum overall GPA. While the original course grade is reported to the college/university, 10 points are added to each dual enrollment student's passing semester grade on

their Prince Avenue transcript. One thing to consider while determining if your child should enroll in a dual enrollment course at Prince is to ensure the college or university your student is interested in attending accepts credit for the DE course.

While some colleges and universities view Dual Enrollment as equal rigor to any level of coursework, most competitive colleges and universities view Advanced Placement (AP) courses as the highest level of rigor that a high school student can take. The College Board states that, "85% of selective institutions report a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions." At the conclusion of an Advance Placement course, students take a national exam where they will earn a score (1-5). This score will be used by the college or university the student attends to determine if they will grant the student course credit. Each college and university has different criteria for the AP score required to earn college credit. It is important to check with each college or university your child is interested in attending to see what AP exam score is required to earn course credit. Another good question to ask admissions offices at colleges and universities is how Advance Placement and Dual Enrollment coursework influences admission decisions.

Course selection over a high school student's four years can be a daunting task. It is our hope at PACS to provide as much information as possible to help each student make the best choices.

