

## Honors & Advanced Placement Courses

Honors and Advanced Placement courses are intended for highly motivated students who are interested in a more rigorous curriculum. Challenging, higher level courses will be covered in greater complexity and at a faster pace than a standard course. Students will be expected to devote additional time and effort, work more independently, and to accept greater responsibility for their learning.

Honors courses typically cover 1 semester and carry an additional GPA (Grade Point Average) point. Advanced Placement courses can cover 1 semester but they can also be offered as yearlong courses. Students who enroll in yearlong AP Courses are expected to complete the full year in order to receive credit for the course. No half credits will be awarded.

### Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement Courses are college-level courses in a variety of subject areas that students may take while in high school. At the end of AP® courses, students take the corresponding examination at the expense of the Rutherford County Board of Education. Many colleges and universities award credit to students who receive a qualifying score on AP® exams. A variety of AP® classes are offered at each of our high schools. These courses are more demanding than other high school courses. Students should work with their teachers, guidance counselors, and parents to determine if they are prepared for the rigor of AP® coursework. PSAT scores, demonstrated academic performance, and a desire to be challenged academically are strong indicators for success in AP® courses. Because AP® courses have prerequisites, students should work with their counselors to plan a course of study throughout high school that will adequately prepare them for college-level work.

### AP Scholar Awards

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. Although there is no monetary award, in addition to receiving an award certificate, this achievement is acknowledged on any AP Score Report that is sent to colleges the following fall.

### Award Levels

<b><i>AP Scholar</i></b>	Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.
<b><i>AP Scholar with Honor</i></b>	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
<b><i>AP Scholar with Distinction</i></b>	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
<b><i>State AP Scholar</i></b>	Granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.
<b><i>National AP Scholar</i></b>	Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.
<b><i>International AP Scholar</i></b>	Granted to the one male and one female student attending a school outside the United States and Canada with the highest average score on the greatest number of AP Exams. The minimum requirement is a score of 3 or higher on three exams.