

## ***Beckman Catholic High School Honors and Advanced Placement Program***

### **Philosophy:**

It is the goal of Beckman Catholic High School's academic program to provide all students with appropriate opportunities and instruction to ensure academic and social success.

The purpose of an honors program and advanced placement courses is to challenge self-directed, self-motivated students who have demonstrated superior achievement to excel in specific disciplines above and beyond the average classroom. Honors courses and advanced placement courses are weighted to encourage students to take academic challenges and to reward their efforts through a weighted grade.

The level of difficulty and challenge of these courses is commensurate with the grade level. Weighted courses differ from regular courses in that content is covered in greater depth and students are challenged to question, recognize divergent views, develop creative thinking and expression, and use critical thinking skills.

Instructional strategies include discovery learning, inquiry, and problem solving. Communication skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are emphasized across the disciplines in the honors program.

An additional goal of the honors and advanced placement programs is to increase student achievement on college entrance and advanced placement exams and provide a strong college preparatory foundation for students.

### **Guidelines:**

1. All honors and advanced placement courses will have prerequisites and placement requirements.
2. All honors and advanced placement course grades will be weighted using a 4.0 scale with an added value of .02 per semester of honors coursework.
3. Honors and advanced placement courses are offered in the core areas of math, science, English, and social studies.
4. No student who has met course prerequisites will be denied entrance to weighted courses; however, any student who earns a semester grade of a C or below in a weighted course or has a large number of absences will be subject to review and possible removal from the course, in an effort to best serve the needs of the student involved.

### **Placement Criteria:**

Recommended placement into honors courses will be based upon the following criteria:

#### **Math:**

1. 2-3 years of Iowa Assessments (NPR) math total
2. Quantitative percentile rank on the Cognitive Ability Test
3. Recommendation from previous math teacher
4. Conference with administration regarding honors placement
5. Successful completion of previous year math course with a letter grade of B or higher

#### **Science:**

1. 2 years of Iowa Assessments (NPR) science total and reading total
2. Recommendation from previous science teacher
3. Conference with administration regarding honors placement
4. Successful completion of previous year science course with a letter grade of B or higher

**English:**

1. 2 years of Iowa Assessments (NPR) reading total and language total
2. Verbal percentile rank on the Cognitive Ability Test
3. Recommendation from previous English teacher
4. Conference with administration regarding honors placement
5. Successful completion of previous year science course with a letter grade of B or higher

**Social Studies:**

1. Conference with administration regarding honors placement
2. Conference with the course instructor