

Student Letter of Commitment
JMHS Honors and Advanced Placement Program

Student name _____ Subject _____

Dear student and parents,

Honors and Advanced Placement courses at John Marshall High provide you the opportunity for learning that goes beyond just facts and figures. Students who take Honors and AP courses learn a subject in depth, develop analytical reasoning skills, and form disciplined study habits that will contribute to continued success at the college level. By participating in AP you have the opportunity to earn college credit, increase your eligibility for scholarships, and become a more attractive candidate to highly selective colleges.

Honors and AP courses are the most rigorous JM has to offer. Therefore, it is imperative for all to understand that the instructional materials, teaching strategies, and demanding class assignments must reflect the high standards necessary to move on to the next level of a subject and succeed on the AP exam. You must expect to spend, on average, 1 to 2 hours per evening in preparation for *each* AP course you take. Organization of your time and effort is one of the important keys to your success. Daily attendance and *active participation* in class are absolutely essential. Homework is assigned on a regular basis and may include individual or group projects. Make-up work must be done in a timely manner. You must be willing to commit to the class until the first interim report at 4 ½ weeks.

To assess your qualification for this advanced level course, please estimate the extent to which you have demonstrated the qualities listed below by circling the number which best represents your performance.

	Very good	Good	Average	Below average
Interest in subject:	4	3	2	1
Has attained the prerequisite <u>knowledge</u> necessary to do more advanced studies in the subject:	4	3	2	1
Has attained the prerequisite <u>skills</u> necessary to do more advanced studies in this subject:	4	3	2	1
Persistence of effort (motivation):	4	3	2	1
Originality of thought:	4	3	2	1

Grade in subject area for the first semester of the current school year _____

To qualify for advanced level courses, it is ***strongly recommended*** that students meet these three criteria:

- A grade of an A or B in the prerequisite class or previous year in the same subject
- An average rating of 3.0 (15 total points) in the criteria above
- Mastery or above in the desired subject area on WESTEST or a comparable rating on another standardized test

Special note to AP students: Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement course are enthusiastically urged to take the Advanced Placement Exam. The cost of the exam is \$86. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch will qualify for a fee reduction. Other students with financial problems should consult either the teacher of the course or Mr. Soltesz for help with the fee.

Students who drop an Advanced Placement or Honors course at the end of the first semester will not receive AP or Honors credit on their transcripts.

I, _____, have read and understand the rigorous expectations of this class and agree to abide by the procedures and practices of the instructor. I am willing to commit to the advanced course until the first interim report is delivered (4 ½ weeks). I also agree to the terms of the AP Exam Policy on the back of this paper.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____