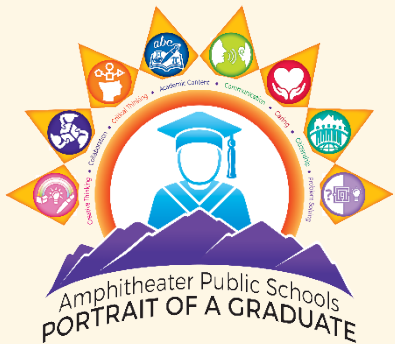


# Information on Weighted and Unweighted Courses and the Calculation of Student GPAs

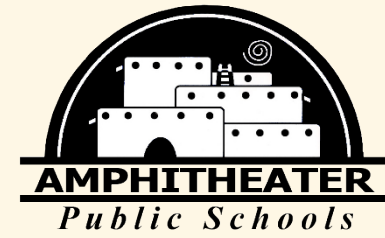
Matt Munger

Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education





# Weighted/Unweighted Courses



Districts, including Amphitheater Public Schools, have utilized an academic course structure that assigns both weighted and unweighted values to courses that are most often associated with courses that are deemed “on-level” or “advanced.”

Historically, classes that are awarded a “weighted” value include courses where students are completing course work that is college level and/or beyond what a student would experience in an “on-level” course. Courses, such as AP, IB, Honors, Dual Enrollment not only have to meet State Standards, but must comply with the program’s or university’s/college’s course requirements and standards.



# Differentiating Course Requirements



Course: ENGo10A/ENGo10B		<b>English 10: Discovering a Personal Point of View</b>
Grade: 10	All Year	Course offered at: AHS CDO IRHS
Prerequisites: <i>Analyzing Cultural Connections through Literature or Honors English 9</i>		
Students will have an opportunity to expand their critical thinking skills applied to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth analysis of poetry, short stories, novels, drama, and non-fiction</li> <li>• Analyzing and evaluating what it means to develop a strong point of view</li> <li>• Apply research skills to reading, writing, listening, and speaking</li> <li>• Class discussions and oral presentations. (These two elements are an integral part of our program).</li> <li>• Independent reading is a requirement</li> </ul>		



Course: ENGo17A/ENGo17B		<b>Honors English 10: Analysis of Literature and Composition</b>
Grade: 10	All Year	Course offered at: CDO IRHS
Prerequisites: <i>Honors/AP English eligibility or A/B in Honors 9, and teacher recommendation</i>		
This course focuses on intensive instruction of essay writing, with an emphasis on literary and rhetorical analysis. This course will teach students how writers and speakers use their words to influence an audience. It focuses on intensive instruction of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay writing, with an emphasis on literary and rhetorical analysis, persuasion and timed writing</li> <li>• Vocabulary development</li> <li>• Test-taking skills</li> <li>• Class discussions and oral presentations, as oral language is one of the ways in which words can influence different audiences ( the development of listening and speaking skills is an integral part of this class curriculum)</li> <li>• Independent reading is a requirement</li> <li>• Each school has a <i>required</i> summer reading to be completed before the fall semester begins (Please visit the English/Language Arts Department website for the list)</li> </ul> <p><b>This course carries a weighted grade.</b></p>		



Course: ENG110A/ENG110B		<b>REACH Honors English 10: A Gifted Approach to Analysis of Literature and Composition</b>
Grade: 10	All Year	Course offered at: AHS CDO IRHS
Prerequisites: <i>REACH English Honors/AP English eligibility</i>		
In this course, students will have an opportunity to exercise their creative and critical thinking skills applied to accessible (contemporary) literature in a variety of mediums. Composition instruction includes creative problem solving through project-based instruction, as well as a Writing Coach series in a process-based approach to writing instruction. This course will prepare students for honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment and IB classes. The curriculum employs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic literary analysis</li> <li>• Thesis-based writing with a focus on the power of revision</li> <li>• Student-centered, visual spatial, project-based learning</li> <li>• Independent reading is a requirement</li> </ul> <p>In addition, students have ample opportunities to apply their critical thinking skills through discussion-based learning and oral presentations as an integral part of this program.</p> <p>The course is designed for identified gifted students taught and will include push-in lessons four times per quarter taught by the high school REACH teacher. The curriculum will be enhanced with visual-spatial strategies and gifted components.</p> <p><b>This course carries a weighted grade.</b></p>		



# Examples of Weighted Courses



## ADVANCED COURSEWORK

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit while still in high school. AP Exams are given in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both, in college.

AP courses are designed to challenge students who demonstrate a consistent record of outstanding academic achievement. Rich course material, vibrant classroom discussions and demanding assignments help students develop the content mastery and critical thinking skills that are expected of college students.

In Amphitheater School District, students who enroll in AP courses are expected to take the AP Exam. Scholarships are available to offset the cost of AP Exam fees for families in financial need. AP courses carry a weighted grade.

### CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY

The Cambridge Academy is a series of classes that are offered to Amphitheater High School's 9th and 10th grade students. These courses have typically been termed "Pre-Advanced Placement" or "Honors". The Cambridge Academy offers rigorous coursework that is based on the University of Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Curriculum. This curriculum is the world's most popular international curriculum for 14 to 16 year olds and is globally recognized and valued by American Universities. Amphitheater High School is using this curriculum with 9th and 10th grade students to ensure that they will be prepared for Advanced Placement classes and have the option of accepting the Grand Canyon Diploma. Cambridge courses carry a weighted grade.

### DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

Dual enrollment allows high school students to take college-level courses at a reduced cost at their high school through partnerships between Amphitheater Public Schools and Pima Community College and the University of Arizona. Students earn both high school credit and college credit by passing the class. Dual Enrollment classes carry a weighted grade.

### HONORS COURSES

Honors courses are designed to challenge students who wish to apply to highly competitive colleges and universities. Students are expected to use independent learning and study skills, and complete additional projects presented by the instructor. Students should consult a school counselor before enrolling in honors courses. Honors classes carry a weighted grade.

### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) COURSES

With a goal of developing inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme offers challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. IB courses carry a weighted grade.



Weighted courses in Amphitheater are “weighted” on a 5-point scale.

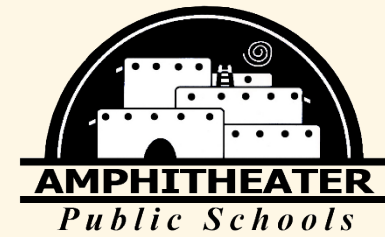
Thus, a student’s grade and GPA would be weighted, meaning:

Grade	Weight
A	5 points
B	4 points
C	3 points
D	2 points
F	0 points





# How Will a Student Know?

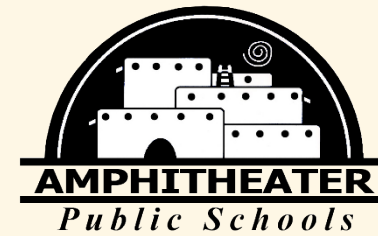


Amphitheater’s Academic Guide (Course Catalog), which is reviewed and published annually, includes notations that informs students and parents if a course is weighted.

Course: MTHo16A/MTHo16B		AP Calculus AB
Grade: 11-12	All Year	Course offered at: AHS CDO IRHS
Prerequisites: "C" or better in Introduction to Calculus or teacher recommendation		
<p>AP Calculus AB focuses students’ attention on exploring the concepts, methods, and applications of differential and integral calculus. This course is equivalent to the first semester of college calculus. Students may elect to take the AP Calculus Exam which may give them one semester college math credit. In this course, students will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore how limits are used to solve problems involving change and apply limits to define integrals</li> <li>• Apply derivatives to set up and solve real-world problems involving instantaneous rates of change</li> <li>• Learn how the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus connects integration and differentials</li> <li>• Apply properties of integrals and practice useful integration techniques</li> <li>• Solve differential equations and apply that knowledge to deepen understanding of exponential growth and decay</li> <li>• Make connections that all the solving of a wide range of problems involving net change over an interval of time and to find areas of regions or volumes of solids defined using functions</li> <li>• For more information on this class, please visit the <a href="#">AP site</a>.</li> </ul>		
This course carries a weighted grade.		



# How Will a Student Know?



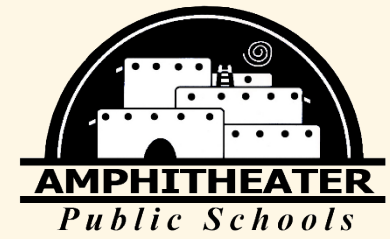
Course: UASERP370A, 370B		<b>American Sign Language</b> (UA SERP370A and UA SERP370B, 4.0 Credit Hours)
Grade: 9-12	All Year	Course offered at: AHS CDO IRHS (Online)
Prerequisites: <i>None</i>		
<p>Students enrolling in the Introduction to American Sign Language course will study the parameters, syntax, sentence types, pluralizations, fingerspelling numbers and sign modulation. Additionally, students will learn about facial expressions, body language, nouns and verbs, modals, sign space, timeline and time modulations, classifiers, lexicalized fingerspelling, conceptual accuracy, conversational regulators, regional dialects and variations, and pronominalization. This course will also include an overview of deaf history and culture. <b>This course carries a weighted grade.</b></p> <p><i>Sophomores may be permitted to take this course based on fulfillment of prerequisites and/or available seating.</i></p>		

Course: CTS163/JTS163		<b>Automotive Technology III</b> (Pima Community College: AUT100 3.0 Credit Hours)
Grade: 11-12	All Year	Course offered at: CDO
Prerequisites: <i>Apply to Pima Community College and completion of any placement requirements</i>		
<p>Students enrolled in this course will expand upon the concepts learned in Auto I and II. They will be applying their knowledge of basic and advanced automotive fundamentals along with their knowledge of small engines. <b>This course carries a weighted grade.</b></p> <p>This course counts towards Pima Community College's AAS-Auto Technology Meets CTE/JTED</p>		Fee required

Course: PCCMAT151		<b>College Algebra</b> (Pima Community College: MAT151, 3.0 Credit Hours)
Grade: 11-12	All Year	Course offered at: IRHS
Prerequisites: <i>Apply to Pima Community College and completion of any placement requirements</i>		
<p>This course is an introduction to college-level algebra, covering concepts that include functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, linear and higher systems, graphing and calculator use. A graphing calculator is required. <b>This course carries a weighted grade.</b></p> <p><i>Sophomores may be permitted to take this course based on fulfillment of prerequisites and/or available seating.</i></p>		



# How are GPAs Calculated



$$\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Total Credits Attempted}} = \text{Grade Point Average}$$


A student's GPA is determined by multiplying each grade associated with a course and dividing by the total number of courses a student has completed.

A student's GPA can be calculated during each grading term; however, the student's cumulative GPA can also be calculated at the end of each year and at the conclusion of a student's senior year.



# Calculating GPAs: Unweighted and Weighted

A → 4    D → 1  
B → 3    F → 0  
C → 2

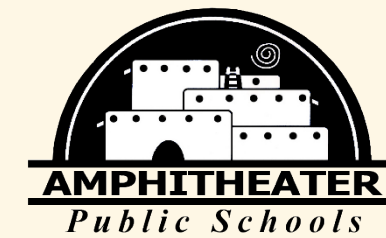


Unweighted GPA

## Unweighted vs. Weighted

A	4.0	5.0
B	3.0	4.0
C	2.0	3.0
D	1.0	2.0
F	0.0	1.0





# Examples:

## \* Weighted GPA

Class:	Credit:	Grade:	Value in GPA
English 11	1.0	A	4 x 1 = 4 pts
US History	1.0	B	3 x 1 = 3 pts
AP Calculus*	1.0	B	4 x 1 = 4 pts
Engineering*	1.0	A	5 x 1 = 5 pts
Marching Band	1.0	C	2 x 1 = 2 pts
AP Chemistry*	1.0	C	3 x 1 = 3 pts

GPA Summary	
Cumulative GPA (Weighted)	4.4615
Class Rank	17 of 422
Cumulative GPA (Unweighted)	3.8462

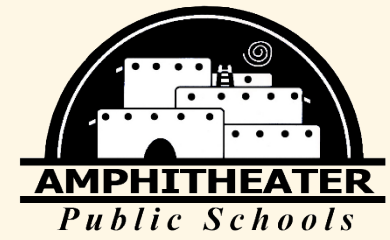
## \* Weighted course

$$4 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 2 + 3 = 21 \text{ pts}$$

$$21 \div 6 = 3.5 \text{ Weighted GPA}$$



# Examples:



## \* Unweighted GPA

Class:	Credit:	Grade:	Value in GPA
English 11	1.0	A	4 x 1 = 4 pts
US History	1.0	B	3 x 1 = 3 pts
AP Calculus*	1.0	B	3 x 1 = 3 pts
Engineering*	1.0	A	4 x 1 = 4 pts
Marching Band	1.0	C	2 x 1 = 2 pts
AP Chemistry*	1.0	C	2 x 1 = 2 pts

GPA Summary	
Cumulative GPA (Weighted)	4.4615
Class Rank	17 of 422
Cumulative GPA (Unweighted)	3.8462



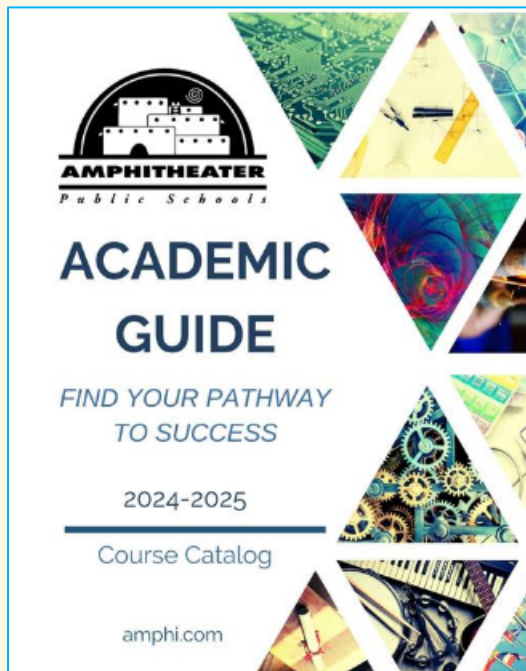
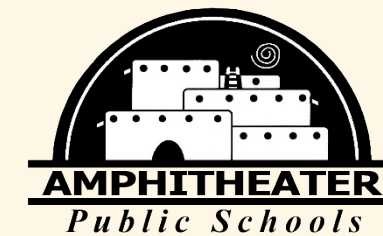
\* *Weighted course*

$$4 + 3 + 3 + 4 + 2 + 2 = 18 \text{ pts}$$

$$18 \div 6 = 3.0 \text{ Unweighted GPA}$$



# Information on GPAs



## GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)/CLASS RANK

For the purpose of determining the grade point average of students, the following scale will be issued:

A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, and F = 0.

Amphitheater Public Schools recognizes that some courses are designed to be more challenging. As a result, some courses receive weighted grades. The weighted grade scale is: A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, and F = 0. Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge Academy, Dual Enrollment, Honors, and International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) courses carry weighted grades. *Please note, colleges and universities may consider the unweighted or weighted grade point average for admittance.*

Grade point average and class rank are computed beginning with the fall of the freshman year and each semester thereafter through the seventh semester. Both weighted and unweighted GPA are computed. Ranking is computed based on the weighted GPA.

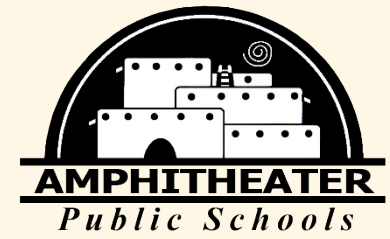
## A Notable Exception

### COURSE CREDIT/MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES

A student who has attended an Amphitheater School District middle school will receive high school credit for Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Algebra II courses and high school level Spanish I and Spanish II courses taken during the student's middle school enrollment. The grades earned in such courses shall be posted on the student's high school transcript but shall not be included in grade point average calculations.



# How GPAs Impact Students



Student GPAs have a profound impact on opportunities during and after high school.



Prior to graduating, a student's GPA has an impact on their ability to participate in extracurricular activities, admittance into school organizations, such as National Honor Society, and their ability to earn "Honors" prior to graduation.



## ARIZONA INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY

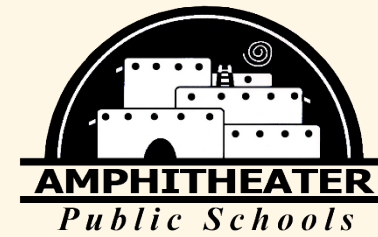
The Amphitheater Governing Board has these eligibility requirements for students that participate in Arizona Interscholastic Activities (AIA). The AIA requirements include:

- Seniors must be enrolled in a minimum of four classes.
- Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors must be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) classes.
- Students must not receive a failing grade at specified grade checks.
- Students must have a "C" average (2.0) at specified grade checks. Calculations include core and elective classes.





# How GPAs Impact Students



## ACADEMIC HONORS

### SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Scholars Program has rigorous academic demands such as extensive reading, analytical writing, long-term projects, and/or challenging lab experiences, as well as high expectations. The courses are designed for the self-motivated student who is an independent learner and requires little teacher direction or repetition to master difficult material. Scholar classes are defined as; any core academic class with the word "Honors" in the course name, any class with a weighted grade, any dual enrollment class taken on school campus, and any math class accelerated at least one grade level. The typical grade level begins with Algebra I in the freshman year.

Students who meet the Scholars Program requirements will receive special recognition during Senior Honors Night.

Requirements:

- Overall weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Successful completion of 12 or more Scholars Program classes during high school career

### ACADEMIC LETTER

An Academic Letter is available to juniors and seniors who meet GPA requirements while taking Scholars' classes. Applications are available at the beginning of each semester.

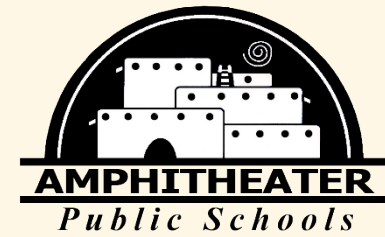
Requirements:

- Overall weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher for the semester in which the letter is awarded
- Two or more "Scholars' Classes" taken in the semester for which the letter is awarded





# Class Rank



Student class rank, which is directly related to a student's **weighted** GPA, determines a student's ranking within their cohort.



Class rank is also used to determine the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Top Ten for each graduating class.

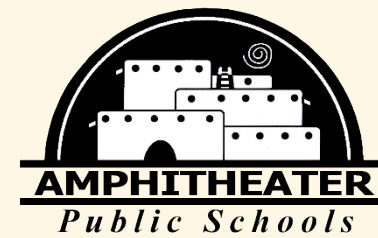


Similar to weighted GPA, class rank is often required information when student's apply for scholarships or admissions to in/out-of-state universities.



GPA Summary	
Cumulative GPA (Weighted)	4.4615
<b>Class Rank</b>	<b>17 of 422</b>
Cumulative GPA (Unweighted)	3.8462

GPA Summary	
Cumulative GPA (Weighted)	3.1786
<b>Class Rank</b>	<b>232 of 422</b>
Cumulative GPA (Unweighted)	2.9643



# Questions