

Advanced Placement Program --- Program Agreement

Dear Parents & Students,

The Advanced Placement Program is an academic program of college-level courses and examinations for high school students. Students enrolled in AP courses take the College Board AP Exam and have an opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced standing in college based on their scores on the AP Exam.

The curriculum of an AP course is challenging and goes into greater depth with the academic material than regular courses. AP courses require students to use analytical thinking, reading, writing, and problem solving skills. AP courses are taught using college level materials and teaching strategies.

- These demanding classes require more effort, time & skills than Honors or Regular level classes and are recommended for highly motivated students.

We are delighted that you are considering enrolling in an AP class. However, we want all parents & students to completely understand the rigor of the class & the commitment required by the student. For this reason, we require that the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) read and sign this agreement. Unlike most high school curriculums that are separated by semesters, learning AP course material is an ongoing process culminating in the AP Exam.

***Students who sign this agreement are committing to remain in an AP class for the entire year (or semester for AP Economics or Government) & commit to take the AP Exam.**

Requirements

Students must meet the following criteria to enroll in an AP course - student must: a) complete all prerequisite courses; b) meet all the application requirements; c) have the recommendation of subject area teacher of the course; d) have recommended score on PSAT/ACT/ ACT Aspire; e) have above average GPA, with B's or better in core academic subjects & A/B in the area of the AP subject; f) be highly motivated with good study habits & above-average writing skills; g) have consent of the parent/guardian; h) must take the AP exam at the end of the year; i) sign "AP Program Agreement"

For many AP classes, AP students will be expected to complete required summer reading or review before the course begins.

*Students may request to exit an AP class (with signed permission of the principal) during the first 10 days or at mid-term if failing. Students may not enter an AP class after first 10 days.

Grading

For students enrolled in an AP course, the GPA is weighted:

A = 5 points

C = 3 points

F = 0 points

B = 4 points

D = 2 points

The grading policies for each AP course are given to the students the first week of school.

Homework

The daily homework will be required. Students are often assigned reading or long-term projects that require them to plan their time so that they are not overwhelmed by deadlines. Developing self-discipline in the area of time management is a goal of all AP classes.

Late Work

Students who elect to take AP courses are expected to do the work required on time; there should be no late work for AP courses.

Honor Code

The nature of AP work often requires that students complete graded assignments outside of class. Students are expected to complete their own work (assignments & homework included) without the assistance of others unless the instructor specifically allows collaboration. Sharing work with another student or using another student's work as his/her own may result in removal from that AP course. Violation of the school Honor Code may also be grounds for removal from any AP course as well as disciplinary action.

Parent/Teacher/Student Expectations

AP classes are college-level courses and the students are expected to be responsible for their behavior, assignments and any conflict resolution. Parents are welcome to conference with AP teachers, but students are expected to use this opportunity to develop the independence needed in the college setting they will shortly experience. The goal of all AP classes is to give students the opportunity to develop the academic and personal skills needed for success in high school and college.

- Parents need to encourage their children to plan their schedules wisely so that they do not take an over-load of AP courses during any one year.

Absences

AP students will often be involved in academic & extra-curricular field trips & school business activities. However, too many absences of any type are detrimental to successful performance in AP classes where the pace of the class is faster in order to prepare students for the AP Exams in early May. Parents & students are asked to be selective in their requests for absences and should consider the following:

- Any class work missed must be made up to the teacher's specifications and timeline
- Field trips and school business activities can be separated into those required by the curriculum and non-essential activities
- Students must take responsibility for their choices
- Parents should encourage their children to be balanced in their activities & academics and not become overly committed

Exam Policy for Advanced Placement Courses

- Students are required to take the AP Exam/ or complete the AP Portfolio in May for each AP course for which they are enrolled or completed in the first semester
- The College Board’s AP Exam schedule will be made available at the beginning of the school year; the AP Exam schedule is also on the School System web-site. It is the student’s responsibility to plan his/her schedule to avoid conflicts.
- Consequences for failure to take an AP Exam:
 - If the student does not take the College Board AP Exam in May, the student will not receive weighted credit for the AP course and the student still needs to take a final exam for the course. If the student does not take a final exam, the student will receive a test grade of “F” to be averaged into the last nine weeks course grade.
 - In the rare instance that the student’s reason for not taking the AP Exam is allowed by the College Board, the student may take an alternate AP exam for AP credit. The exam must be ordered the same week as the original exam and administered on the specific dates and times set by the College Board for late testing.

6/16

Please tear this form on the dotted line & give the lower half of this form with the signatures to your school counselor.

AGREEMENT

My child and I have read the agreement and my child would like to enroll in an AP course. We understand the level work required and the policies explained on the previous pages and are prepared to fulfill these requirements.

Student (PRINT) _____

Student (SIGN) _____

Parent/Guardian (SIGN) _____

Date _____ Grade Level _____ School Year _____

Please list the AP Courses registered for:

Students who plan to register for more than 3 AP courses in one year need the principal’s signature also -

Principal _____