



# WHAT IS AP? (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)

INFORMATION WHEN  
CONSIDERING AP CLASSES

# Topics

- What is an AP class?
- Student Expectations
- Growing Concerns
- Health and Balance
- Support
- FAQ's
- Next Steps



# What is an AP (Advanced Placement) class?

- College level course
- Curriculum developed through the College Board (makers of the SAT) Advanced Placement program
- Students who take an AP class take an AP exam at the end of the course (May.)
  - Scored on a scale of 1 - 5



# Purpose

- First-hand look at what a college-level class is like.
- To give students the opportunity to challenge themselves academically, personally, and socially.
- To be better-prepared for college:
  - workload - time management
  - independent learners
  - develop higher level critical thinking and problem solving skills



# Expectations

- Students have the ability to read, write and think critically at a college level
- Complete, on average, an hour of homework per class, per night
- Keep up with the pace of the class and prepare for the AP exam
- School work is a high priority
- Manage themselves independently and **seek help if necessary**



# Growing Concerns

- Increased levels of stress and anxiety
- Lack of sleep (need at least 9 hours, nightly)
- Integrity violations
- Burn-out
- Many students who were not recommended for AP, Honors, or higher level courses who are on waivers are struggling
- Students earning lower grades than they are accustomed to
- Snowball effect - if a student is behind in one class, it can snowball



# Healthy Balance

- Take AP classes in areas that most interest the student - Is the student passionate about the subject area?
- Keep in mind the rigor and demand of other classes (Pre-calculus, AS English, world languages, etc.).
- Keep in mind extra-curricular activities and the amount of hours that are expected for each activity.
- Sleep is vital to brain function and overall good health (need at least 9 hours, nightly).



# What Can Students Do?

- Take classes in areas that most interest them - students should be passionate, excited about the subject area!
- Complete summer work and prepare for the following school year.
- Attend school/classes everyday
- Take notes in class and review/summarize notes and what they are learning
- Communicate with teachers
- Work hard, be consistent, and seek help if needed





# How Can Family Help?

- Have that conversation about AP with your student
- Help provide a *healthy balance*
- Encourage your child to seek help: work with their teachers, after school tutoring, work with peers (study groups)
- Create time and space for your student to study!!
- Keep them in school every day
- Stay in touch, checking-in to be sure they are ok.
- You know your student best



# Support Available

## Tutoring

- After School Tutoring Center in the library
- Writing Center - One-on-one help with writing
- Peer Tutoring during flextime (sign up with library)
- PAPER - free online tutoring available 24/7

## Communication with teachers and/or school counselor

- email
- flextime
- by appointment

## Mental Health Support

- Zen Den (B-22)
- StarVista - Personal Counseling



(Still deciding?)

# The Holistic Approach

- Preparedness
- Skills
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Drive and Motivation / Focus and Attention
- Purpose
- Work Ethic
- Health
- Maturity
- Priority
- Family Discussions



# Frequently Asked Questions



Question:

Do students receive an extra grade point for taking an AP class?



# Extra Grade Point

## Answer: Yes and No

Students who earn a grade of an A, B, or C in their AP course will receive an extra grade point added to their overall M-A GPA (Grade Point Average).

Students who receive a D or F do NOT get the extra grade point.



Question:

Can my student earn college credit for their AP class?



# College Credit

## Answer: Yes and No

- ❖ Some colleges will give students credits while others may not.
- ❖ If a college offers students credits, they will most likely use the student's AP Exam score as the determining factor.
- ❖ When the time is right, students can start researching colleges to see if they offer credit for AP classes.





Question:

Are some AP classes more difficult than others?



# Course Difficulty

Answer: Yes

- AP courses vary in difficulty. The most important factor is the student.
- Visit [mabears.org](http://mabears.org) for additional course information
- [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) - for course content



# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade English Course Descriptions



Course	Typical Writing Per Quarter	Typical Weekly Reading (pages)	Sample Reading List and Brief Description
<b>AP English Language and Composition</b>	<p>Students primarily focus on rhetorical, synthesis, and argument writing. AP-style timed writes are the primary format, with occasional take-home or longer form pieces mixed in. It is a given that students should be producing writing that is clear, coherent, and 100% error free. The instruction in class concentrates on producing writing that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Is nuanced, smooth, evocative, and insightful,</li> <li>2) Shows an effective balance between generalized arguments and the use of specific and illustrative details to support an argument, and</li> <li>3) Focuses on the development of a student's personal voice and on developing a tone that is effective for his/her purpose as an author.</li> </ol>	<p>Students may read 30-50 pages a week, but are expected to read carefully, critically, and rhetorically. They should be note-taking/annotating as they go. The focus is on reading and understanding texts at the word and sentence level, on identifying connotations and inferences that the text is making, and on connecting conclusions that students draw from their close reading to a text's overall message or purpose</p>	<p>Longer works have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Between the World and Me</i></li> <li>• <i>Song of Solomon</i></li> <li>• <i>The Fire Next Time</i></li> </ul> <p>Shorter works include essays from authors such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamaica Kincaid</li> <li>• Deborah Tannen</li> <li>• Ta-Nehisi Coates</li> <li>• Virginia Woolf</li> <li>• Joyce Carol Oates</li> <li>• Annie Dillard</li> <li>• Edward Abbey</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy emphasis on non-fiction and rhetorical analysis of argumentative writing</li> <li>• Students read shorter pieces (essays/articles/etc), but are expected to read them deeply (and perhaps more than once)</li> </ul>
<b>AS English III</b>	<p>This course will prepare students to take AP Literature their Senior year should they choose to do so</p> <p>Typical writing in AS English III is analytical in nature. This analysis will sometimes be in</p>	<p>20-40 pages per week. Reading is primarily done at home. Reading assignments are often given out far ahead of time and require time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Great Gatsby</i></li> <li>• <i>The Crucible</i></li> <li>• Shorter pieces of personal narratives, articles, poetry, other non-fiction, etc.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an English survey course which covers a wide variety of genres. Students will read and write in a variety</li> </ul>



# Arts

AP Art and Design Program



AP Art History



Explore the history of art across the globe from prehistory to the present. You'll analyze works of art through observation, discussion, reading, and research.

## Course Content

Unit 1: Global Prehistory, 30,000–500 BCE

Unit 2: Ancient Mediterranean, 3500 BCE–300 CE

Unit 3: Early Europe and Colonial Americas, 200–1750 CE

Unit 4: Later Europe and Americas, 1750–1980 CE

Unit 5: Indigenous Americas, 1000 BCE–1980 CE

Unit 6: Africa, 1100–1980 CE

Unit 7: West and Central Asia, 500 BCE–1980 CE

Unit 8: South, East, and Southeast Asia, 300 BCE–1980 CE

Unit 9: The Pacific, 700–1980 CE

Unit 10: Global Contemporary, 1980 CE to Present

## Exam Dates



**AP Art History Exam**

Thu, May 6, 2021, 12 PM Local

**PAPER, IN SCHOOL**



**AP Art History Exam**

Wed, May 19, 2021, 4 PM EDT

**DIGITAL, IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME**



**AP Art History Exam**

Wed, Jun 2, 2021, 4 PM EDT

**DIGITAL, IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME**



Question:

My student is struggling in their AP class. Can they level down to a non-AP class?



# Level Changes

Answer: Yes, if there is lower level course

*For example: AP Statistics to Statistics*

- Level changes are not guaranteed
- Space must be available
- It can shuffle a student's schedule around

Answer: No, if the course does not have a lower level

*For example: AP Art History*



# Level Changes continued

- No level change possible for these classes...

AP Art History

AP Biology

AP Calculus AB and BC

AP Chemistry

AP Comp Sci Principles and JAVA

AP Environmental Science

AP Chinese, AP Latin, AP Spanish, AP French



Question:

How can a student make-up a D or F grade in an AP class?



# Repeating a Course

## Answer....

- Majority of the students who need to make-up an AP course will recover it outside of M-A. However, very few programs offer these courses making it difficult to repeat.
- Students who repeats an AP course outside of M-A must follow the district's concurrent enrollment policy.



Question:

Is it better for my student to earn a B in an AP Course or an A in the college-prep course?

# AP vs College Prep

Answer....

It really depends on your student. Some students are completely fine earning a B in an AP class while others prefer the A in the college-prep class.



# The Goal

- We want your child to learn as much as possible and be successful.
- We want them to work hard.
- We want to support them.
- **HOWEVER**, we do not want them to put themselves in an unhealthy situation.

