

AP Course Expectations & Agreement Form

**SIGN & RETURN WITH YOUR COURSE SELECTION FORM TO DWELCOME@LWSD.ORG BY 8AM
ON JAN. 25th, 2021**

Advanced Placement (AP) courses include rigorous curricula on par with introductory-level college courses and conclude with an optional, comprehensive standardized exam. Students may earn college credit for their AP exam scores; often, a score of 3 or higher (on a scale of 1 to 5) is sufficient to receive college credit.

We encourage students/families to thoughtfully consider the workload of AP courses, and choose AP only when the student is particularly enthusiastic about a subject. A common error is to overload on AP courses to show rigor, without understanding the potential academic and emotional expense. A schedule with balanced rigor leads to a successful, healthy high school career and is much more beneficial for future successes and overall wellbeing.

Excellent reasons to register for AP

- I love this subject!
- I want to learn in more depth about this subject.
- I'm strongly considering a career related to this subject.

Not-so-excellent reasons to register for AP:

- It will look good on my transcript.
- All my friends are taking it!
- I'm feeling pressured to take it even though I am not interested in the subject and/or have many other rigorous courses to focus on.

Ask yourself, how much quality time can you to commit to these courses?

Expect at least 1 hour of homework per night, per AP class. A student registered for 3 AP classes is prepared to commit to 3 hours of homework per night for those classes alone.

Consider:

- Do you have/want an after-school job or internship?
- Do you participate in sports or school clubs?
- Do you volunteer in the community?
- Do you have responsibilities at home?

Will you have enough time left over to commit the hours necessary to be *successful* in the number of AP's you are planning to register for?

Important questions to ask yourself before choosing your AP courses:

- Am I taking the course(s) for the right reasons?
- Do I have enough time in 24 hours to give *quality time* to all my commitments, in addition to keeping myself healthy?
- How quickly/efficiently do I complete homework? Am I able to manage my time and hold myself to a strict schedule?
- How will I cope if the course-load is difficult and I cannot change my schedule?
- Would I be willing to drop one or more extracurricular activities if necessary?
- Would I be satisfied with a grade less than a "B"?

Continued...



AP Course Expectations:

- Courses are considered **college-level** (including textbook, reading-level and materials)
- More hours of homework than non-AP; **expect 1 hour of homework per AP class, per night.**
- **Increased number of assignments** and depth of assignments
- College pace/timeline for content **moves quickly**
- High level of **self-motivation** expected for completion of projects and AP assignments
- Expect **substantial and required summer assignments** before beginning an AP course.
- The College Board does not allow schools/teachers to modify the AP requirements or textbook
- AP exams are during set dates/times in May and scheduled at high schools throughout the district

Non-AP or Honors Course Expectations:

- Course syllabi and content align with state and district standards
- Honors courses use **advanced-level**, district-approved textbooks
- Workload may be less than AP course, but is **still substantial** as part of our Tesla STEM Honors curricula
- Honors curriculum is designed to be **challenging** and consistent with Honors designation at other district high schools
- Courses align with rigorous high school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURES

❖ *I have read the information and recommendations regarding AP Course Expectations and will use this information to guide my selection of courses for the upcoming school year.*

❖ *I understand that I cannot request to change into or out of AP courses after June 17th, 2021.*

Student name (Print) and Signature Date

Parent name (Print) and Signature Date

*Please return one copy of this form to dwelcome@lwsd.org along with your course selection forms and **keep one copy for yourself for future reference.***