

Are you considering taking an AP Course?

AP or Advanced Placement Courses are college-level courses which students can take in high school. This program is run by the CollegeBoard. In May, students have the opportunity to take the AP Exam, which is the same for students all over the county. The exams are scored from 1-5 and students with qualifying scores (usually 3 or above) may earn college credit or advanced placement when registering for courses in college. Each individual college or university determines credit or placement, not the CollegeBoard or AP Program.

According to the CollegeBoard, "AP courses can help you acquire the skills and habits you'll need to be successful in college. You'll improve your writing skills, sharpen your problem-solving abilities, and develop time management skills, discipline, and study habits."

What does an AP Teacher expect?

- A student that has achieved a B or better in prerequisite/subject matter courses
- A student that is excited about taking a challenging courses to increase their success during the freshman year of college
- A student with the ability to analyze content, draw comparisons, and reason through problems
- A student able to read perceptively and independently and write clear, concise essays
- A student that has interest in the subject matter
- A student that aims to earn AP credits toward college courses by taking the test

For Parents and Guardians:

"AP provides students with an opportunity for learning that goes beyond just facts and figures. The rich course material, classroom discussions and demanding assignments typical of AP courses will help your child develop the knowledge and critical thinking skills expected of college students."

How parents can help support an AP student:

- Focus on the learning, not on the grade. You may see them struggle. You might even see them get excited about getting a B or a C on a test or paper!
- Do not allow your student to overload their schedule with too many AP courses and/or other activities
- Participate in college and AP planning with your child and their advisor, counselor, or teacher- look into what specific colleges want
- Encourage preparation for AP courses early
- Help him or her schedule time wisely
- Encourage and require strong study skills
- Set up a good study atmosphere
- Help your student gain access to study aides (review books)

For more information about AP courses, please contact content area teachers or your child's school counselor. You may also refer to the current Program of Studies for additional information, including the necessary prerequisites for each course.

AP Class Information

AP Calculus AB

If you have ever sat in a math class and wondered, "Why do I need to know this?", then AP Calculus is the course for you. You will not only learn that every math topic you have learned is important, but you will also learn that Calculus is just finding the slope of a line and determining the area of a rectangle. The course will require reading selected sections of 1 chapter per week, chapter problems collected on a weekly basis, and daily homework.

AP Calculus BC

After mastering the Calculus AB class, you are even more determined to see what comes next. In this class we will continue discussing the topics started in AB but also include the infinite-looking at patterns with infinite terms and determining if they converge to a specific number. For example, imagine the distance from your desk to the door. Since you will continually split this distance in half, technically you will never reach zero (reach the door). In Calculus BC, you will learn why you can reach the door.

AP Statistics

How is it that we can usually predict the winner of an election before the election even happens? In AP Statistics you will learn to collect data without bias, analyze the data, and then use the laws of probability to make predictions about the population as a whole. Everything done in class is done to prepare you for the AP exam; so if you sign up for the class plan on signing up for the exam.

AP French

The goal of AP French is for students to apply the grammar and vocabulary that they have learned throughout the course of their French study to real world contexts. It is extremely rigorous, summer study is recommended and the majority of the work is done outside of class to prepare for the classroom discussions and activities. Students will hone skills in listening, reading writing and speaking to achieve fluency in all four areas with minimal dependence on dictionaries and other resources. They will utilize authentic readings, newspapers, magazines, television and radio broadcasts to understand Francophones and Francophone perspectives. Students will synthesize information; form opinions based upon at least one print and one audio source and use the information to support their opinions in argumentative writing style. To improve written communication students will engage in a wide variety of strategies from writing essays to using social media in an educational forum. To develop spoken proficiency students will engage in such activities as oral presentations and debates without the aid of notes, as well as a web based program to communicate with native speakers.

AP German

Students will listen to the daily news in German and view authentic German TV programs in order to fluently and accurately express their ideas and opinions and to summarize and discuss content. Students will read newspaper and magazine articles, contemporary fiction, technical and non-technical writings with less and less dependence on a dictionary. Students will speak extensively in German on a variety of topics. New vocabulary words will be explained in German and students are encouraged to use circumlocution and contextual clues when they come upon unknown words. To tailor their review of vocabulary and structure, students will take several previously published German AP exams to determine their own strengths and weaknesses. Several German college textbooks, CDs and online resources will be accessed to give the students practice in understanding native speakers. Students will also record themselves to evaluate how well they can be understood by native speakers. The students can expect to work independently a lot of the time and to have very good time management and organizational skills, since AP German could be scheduled along with another German class.

AP Latin

Why does everybody think that Latin is a dead language? It is, in fact, very much alive. Join our AP class to learn the culture, mythology, and language as seen through the eyes of Virgil and his very controversial hero Aeneas. In this college level class, you will be expected to do a fair share of independent work and collaboration with your fellow AP Latin classmates. As is expected, the class is not an easy walk in the gardens of Hesperides, but with the help of the Roman gods (and Mrs. Shipley of course!) you will labor through it and come out a victor!

AP Spanish

Students will be expected to read, write and speak in Spanish on a daily basis. Homework frequently consists of assigned readings of authentic material in Spanish. There will be several oral presentations that require significant out of class time to prepare. Students will review grammar, and be graded on formal and informal speech and writing. Listening skills are also assessed. Students will read authentic literature and technical writing as well as news and current events pieces. Students will be regularly assessed on their comprehension of these materials.

AP Literature & Composition

The best preparation for college writing, students in this class will become sophisticated readers and writers of literature. Students should be prepared for hard work on the part of the individual writer, careful reading, and lively discussion on the part of the class. Critical papers will use specific and well - chosen evidence to articulate an argument about poems, drama, and fiction from the 16th century to present day. Be ready to analyze texts for structure, style (figurative language, imagery, symbolism, tone), and social/historical values. The purpose of AP Lit (besides passing the test and acing English 101) is to build and foster a love for and interaction with literature and with peers through literature. The average reading assignment is 50 pages per class. Analytical essays are frequent and will be completed both in-class (timed) and at home. Students will be expected to read multiple texts at a time.

AP English Language and Composition

Students of this course will become masters of English rhetoric by analyzing language's impact on authorial purpose. By reading a variety of texts and writing varied compositions of their own, students will be expected to use and manipulate rhetoric as well as to observe and evaluate the effectiveness of the rhetoric of others. Writing will focus on rhetorical analysis, synthesis, and argument; students can expect to write nearly every class while managing multiple home reading and writing assignments. This course demands critical and independent thinking as well as honed time management and organizational skills.

AP Environmental Science

Students interested in taking AP Environmental Science will do a variety of learning activities, from multiple day lab experiments to single day in class activities. This class requires students to have excellent time management and organizational skills, as well as willingness to research outside of class time. Willingness to go outside and get dirty also a plus! Students in APES will read 1-2 chapters every two weeks as well as write a lab report for every unit. There are multiple independent projects and outside reading assignments students will be responsible for completing. Critical analysis and higher level thinking are a must as students will be expected to analyze and evaluate environmental problems and create solutions, as there are no concrete answers.

AP Biology

Students will learn more in-depth knowledge of the content they learned in Biology I. There will be a big emphasis on the AP labs and scientific inquiry. Students are expected to keep up with the chapter readings and the work of the class in order to be successful. It is also expected that students participate in class discussions to help facilitate the learning process and hopefully have fun in the process.

AP Chemistry

Students will review and expand on content learned in previous chemistry courses. Students will also be introduced to advanced laboratory techniques used at the college level and will be expected to maintain a laboratory research notebook and write formal lab reports based on the data in these notebooks. The course is fast paced and independent learning and studying is necessary for success. Students will be expected to read and outline textbook chapters, complete homework problem sets related to the units being studied, and read and write reviews of chemical research journal articles.

AP Physics

Physics makes the world go round. It is the foundation for most engineering, architecture, and science related careers. From Archimedes to Hawking and everyone in between, we explore the how and why of the universe. The course is rich in problem solving and applying these skills to real world problems. Topics include mechanics, electricity and magnetism, thermodynamics, optics, and modern physics. It is strongly recommended for anyone who may be considering a major in science, engineering, technology and math.

AP US History

The course is an in-depth look at the history of our country from the early exploration era until present day. It is primarily a lecture course but is highly interactive as well. A student favorite are the numerous debates where students take on the persona of an historical figure in order to debate the topic at hand from that person's point of view. There are also presidential outlines which cover the important events of each president's administration; they are considered one of the key study tools for success for the AP exam. The reading load is about one chapter per week; at the end of each chapter, there is a reading quiz where students are allowed to use any notes that they take during reading. Students get extensive practice in writing responses to document based questions and free response questions. A lot of work but the rewards are many as AP US is a strenuous introduction to the AP world and what it requires.

AP World History

The focus is on "big picture" history from 8000 BCE until the present. The emphasis is on analysis rather than memorization of facts or dates, and much more about the movement and trade among peoples than individuals in history. Students can expect a challenging pace with frequent readings of 35-40 pages per chapter, as well as an outside reading assignment for two of the four quarters. Interest in history as well as strong reading and writing skills are needed.

AP European History

Focus in European history is specifically the history of Europe from 1400 to the present. As such, it is specific to key individuals and much more detailed than any of the World History courses can be in terms of events in Europe. There is a good deal of reading assigned each week and an outside reading assignment for two quarters as well. Students with a definite interest in European history who want to sharpen their analytical and writing skills may want to take this course.

AP Psychology

Are you a motivated student who wants to further your knowledge about how & why humans behave the way they do? If so, consider taking Honors Psych as a junior, and then pushing yourself to take AP Psychology as a senior. In AP Psychology, students are expected to keep up with readings and critical vocabulary while diving deeper into many subjects that were introduced in Honors Psychology. Topics like personality, motivation, conformity, & psychological disorders are waiting.....AP Psych, just do it!

AP US Government and Politics

This course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality such as, but are not limited to, the US Constitution, American Political Culture, Civil Rights and Liberties, the Media, Campaigns and Elections, the Presidency, Congress, and the US Supreme Court.

AP Macroeconomics

The focus is to prepare students to understand how the economy works in broad terms. One main overarching objective of the course is to teach students to understand the various factors that influence economic well-being to a point that they could serve as an advisor to solve various economic problems. Many economic theories and alternatives are explored using a variety of sources. Students will better understand economic news, print media and current conditions. Students will also learn to manage finances, understand the various markets, investments strategies and examine economic solutions put forth by political candidates. This course is designed to not only prepare students for the AP test, but to understand the "economic way of thinking" necessary for managing their future households while protecting their assets by keeping tuned in to prevailing economic conditions.

AP Music Theory

Any student who is thinking about majoring or minoring in music in college needs this course. The ultimate goal of this course is to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. This goal is achieved through the strengthening of aural skills, sight-singing skills, written skills, compositional skills, and analytical skills.

AP Studio Art

Liberty High School offers three different AP Art Portfolio courses including: AP Drawing Portfolio, the AP 2D Design Portfolio, and the AP 3D Design Portfolio. The AP Art portfolios are designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. AP Studio Art is not based on a written examination; instead, students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. The portfolios share a basic, three-section structure, which requires the student to show a fundamental competence and range of understanding in visual concerns (and methods). Each of the portfolios asks the student to demonstrate a depth of investigation and process of discovery through the **Concentration** section (Section II). In the **Breadth** section (Section III), the student is asked to demonstrate a serious grounding in visual principles and material techniques. The **Quality** section (Section I) permits the student to select the works that best exhibit a synthesis of form, technique, and content.

General Description of portfolios:

AP Drawing Portfolio: Don't let the name fool you, this portfolio includes all wet mediums (acrylic, ink, watercolor, oil, etc) in addition to all dry mediums (graphite, pastel, charcoal, etc). This is a fine art portfolio based in mark making.

2D Design Portfolio: This portfolio is a design portfolio centers around elements of art and principles of design and are more graphics oriented. These portfolios include hand drawn pieces, computer generated art, or photography.

3D Design Portfolio: This portfolio is a sculptural portfolio which includes a variety of materials. Students may focus on a material such as clay, etc.