



PINEWOOD
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

AMERICAN DIPLOMA & ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM®



AP®

LMSA
CESS
ACCREDITED



A Diverse Educational Experience

Welcome to Pinewood American International School – where **diversity meets excellence in education**. Nestled in a small and vibrant community, our school proudly embraces a rich tapestry of cultures, with students representing 45+ nationalities. At Pinewood, we believe in the **power of diversity** to inspire, challenge, and enrich the educational experience.

Our commitment goes beyond traditional boundaries, as we foster a **learning environment that mirrors the globalized world of today**. At Pinewood, we not only celebrate our differences but also recognize the strength that arises from a mosaic of perspectives. As a beacon of American international education, we cultivate a sense of unity that transcends borders, creating a unique atmosphere where every student feels valued and empowered.

Mission Statement

Pinewood aims to offer students a progressive, personalized American international education centered on academic excellence in each student's journey towards self-actualization. This is achieved in a stimulating, multicultural learning environment that emphasizes service, respect for ethical values and awareness of local culture.

Vision Statement

Pinewood American International School strives to be a growing center of excellence in the region by educating students through best practices for reaching their full potential as adaptable global citizens.



The American High School Diploma

The **American High School Diploma** is awarded to students who successfully complete their high school education at **Pinewood**. Students are required to complete a minimum of **22 credits** in high school, Grades 9-12, in order to obtain the American Diploma. The strong majority of Pinewood students graduate with more than the minimum credit requirement.

Graduation requirements for all options are consistent with the goals of the school, the requirements for admission to higher education institutions, and the **Carnegie Unit** system. Pinewood grants its diploma only to students who have successfully completed all graduation requirements. The GPA is calculated on a 5.0 scale for AP® and IBDP courses and a 4.0 scale for all other courses as follows:

IB Grade	Letter Grade	Points	AP Points	IB HL Points	IB SL Points
7	A+	4.0	5.0	5.0	4.5
6	A	3.8	4.5	4.5	4.0
5	B	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.5
4	C	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.5
3	D	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.5
2	F	0	0	0	0
1	F	0	0	0	0

Transfer students have their official transcripts reviewed for credit approvals. A minimum of **10 credits for students transferring to Pinewood in Grade 11** and **5 credits for students transferring to Pinewood in Grade 12** must be earned.

Field	Minimum Requirements	Recommended
English	4 credits	4 credits
Social Sciences	4 credits	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	4 credits
World Languages	2 credits	4 credits
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit
Electives	5 credits	6 credits

Grade Advancement

The following policy applies to all students in the **High School (Grades 9-12)**:

- Students must obtain at least **4 credits** by the end of **Grade 9** to advance into Grade 10.
- Students must obtain at least **9 credits** by the end of **Grade 10** to advance into Grade 11.
- Students must obtain at least **15 credits** by the end of **Grade 11** to advance into Grade 12.

Final grades are determined through a combination of the scores earned in formative and summative assessments and exams.

For **AP courses**, a minimum grade of 2 is required for receiving credit towards graduation. Only **final grades**, not progress report marks or term scores, are used to calculate a student's **GPA** for the year.

Greek Diploma Equivalency

The **Greek Diploma Equivalency** is intended for students who want to receive an equivalency to the **Greek Apolytirion**. This requires **Greek Language & Literature** and **Greek History** courses each year of high school following the **Greek Ministry of Education** curriculum. Upon successful completion of the program, students receive a certificate of attendance and a grade transcript which they submit along with their **American High School Diploma** to the relevant office of the **Greek Ministry of Education**, which issues the equivalency to the **Greek Apolytirion**.





Advanced Placement Program® (AP®)

The **Advanced Placement Program® (AP®)** is recognized and respected **worldwide** for the academic rigor of its curricula and **high standards** of its assessments; it is a system widely embraced by both American and European universities to assess and acknowledge students' academic proficiency.

The **AP®** Program helps students **connect** with university opportunities **globally**. It consists of **university-level courses** taken in **high school**, with its **end-of-course assessment** being **externally** developed and **scored** by university faculty and experienced **AP®** teachers.

One of the main advantages of the **AP®** Program is that it helps **students stand out on university applications**. All **AP®** Exam scores show colleges that the students are serious about their education, willing to take on a **challenge**, and have **completed** college-level work **already** in high school. By taking these courses, students can also gain

a deeper understanding of subjects they are **passionate** about and **challenge themselves academically**.

AP® courses are **more challenging** and **stimulating** than regular ones; they take **more time** and **require more work**. Students must expect an **increased reading** load and longer or **more frequent** writing assignments in most of these classes. **AP®** courses require **energetic, involved, and motivated** students.

Students should practice analyzing content, drawing comparisons, and reasoning through problems. They must be able to read **perceptively** and **independently**. Additionally, students need to be **proficient** in writing clear, concise essays. Students who are not skilled in these areas must be **even more highly motivated** to make up for deficiencies, at the same time that they are taking more rigorous courses. The keys to success are **motivation, self-discipline, and academic preparation**.

The **AP®** exams are given every year in **May**. Each exam consists of two parts, **Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)** and **Free Response Questions (FRQs)**. Scores are released in July. They range from **1** (no recommendation) to **5** (extremely qualified). Each college determines the scores to be accepted for credit, and most will consider a score of **at least 3**. This table shows the recommendation that each AP score offers about how **qualified** you are to receive college credit and placement if you earn that score. It also shows the **equivalent** college course grade for each score.

AP® Exam Score	Recommendation	College Course Grade Equivalent
5	Extremely well qualified	A+ or A
4	Very well qualified	A-, B+, or B
3	Qualified	B-, C+, or C
2	Possibly Qualified	
1	No recommendation	

AP® Exam Only Sections

Pinewood also administers **AP® Exams** to students who are not enrolled in a course but fall into the following categories: independent/self-study students, students who attend another school, homeschooled students, and virtual school students.

Based on student interest, the **AP® Exam Only** sections include but are not limited to courses regularly offered at Pinewood, as well as those of **AP® French Language and Culture** and **AP® Spanish Language and Culture**. **AP® Exam Only** sections carry additional fees.



Please scan the QR code to find an overview of all the American Diploma and AP courses offered at Pinewood.



AP Capstone Diploma™

The **AP Capstone Diploma™**, offered by the College Board, is a program that aims to provide students with a unique and challenging educational experience, fostering skills that are highly valuable in college and future careers. It emphasizes **inquiry, research, collaboration, and communication**, preparing students for the rigors of higher education and beyond. It consists of two mandatory courses:

AP® Seminar and AP® Research.

To earn the **AP Capstone Diploma™**, students must successfully complete **both** AP® Seminar and AP® Research, as well as **four additional AP® courses** of their choosing.

Students who earn scores of **3 or higher** on the AP® Seminar and AP® Research exams, as well as on four additional AP® exams, receive the **AP Capstone Diploma™**.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the AP® Seminar and AP® Research exams but do not complete the additional AP® courses receive the **AP® Seminar and Research Certificate**.



AP Capstone Diploma™

AP SEMINAR (Year 1)
Team Project & Presentation
Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation
End-of-Course Exam
AP RESEARCH (Year 2)
Academic Paper
Presentation & Oral Defense
4 AP COURSES & EXAMS (Taken at any point throughout high school)

AP® Seminar is an interdisciplinary class focusing on critical thinking and research skills. Students engage with various texts to explore complex topics from multiple perspectives. The course includes team projects and presentations, where students collaborate to analyze specific issues and communicate their findings. Additionally, students complete an individual written argument, showcasing their ability to construct well-reasoned arguments supported by evidence. The culmination involves an end-of-course exam assessing their understanding of the covered skills and content.

AP® Research builds on the foundation established in AP® Seminar. It centers around a year-long independent research project, allowing students to delve deeply into a topic of their choosing. The culmination is an academic thesis (4000-5000 words) that outlines the research question, methodology, findings, and conclusions. In addition to the written component, students are required to present and defend their research to peers and evaluators, honing their communication skills. Emphasizing critical inquiry, AP® Research simulates a college-level research experience and prepares students for academic challenges in higher education. Scores, ranging from 1 to 5, are based on the quality of the thesis, the presentation and defense, and a written exam.

Capstone students will use the **QUEST framework** throughout both classes. Not only does QUEST tie each task to appropriate academic terminology, it shows the interconnectedness of each step in the academic process. Further, it shows that it is perfectly normal in academic study to revisit previous steps in light of new information.



In that the endgame of AP Capstone™ is original research, QUEST helps students join the community of scholars by applying processes that guide published works in all disciplines. Expected Student Learning Outcomes (Q.U.E.S.T.)

AP Capstone™ is organized around 5 "Big Ideas." These Big ideas are:

- (Q) Big Idea #1: Question and Explore
- (U) Big Idea #2: Understand and Analyze
- (E) Big Idea #3: Evaluate Multiple Perspectives
- (S) Big Idea #4: Synthesize Ideas
- (T) Big Idea #5: Team, Transform, and Transmit

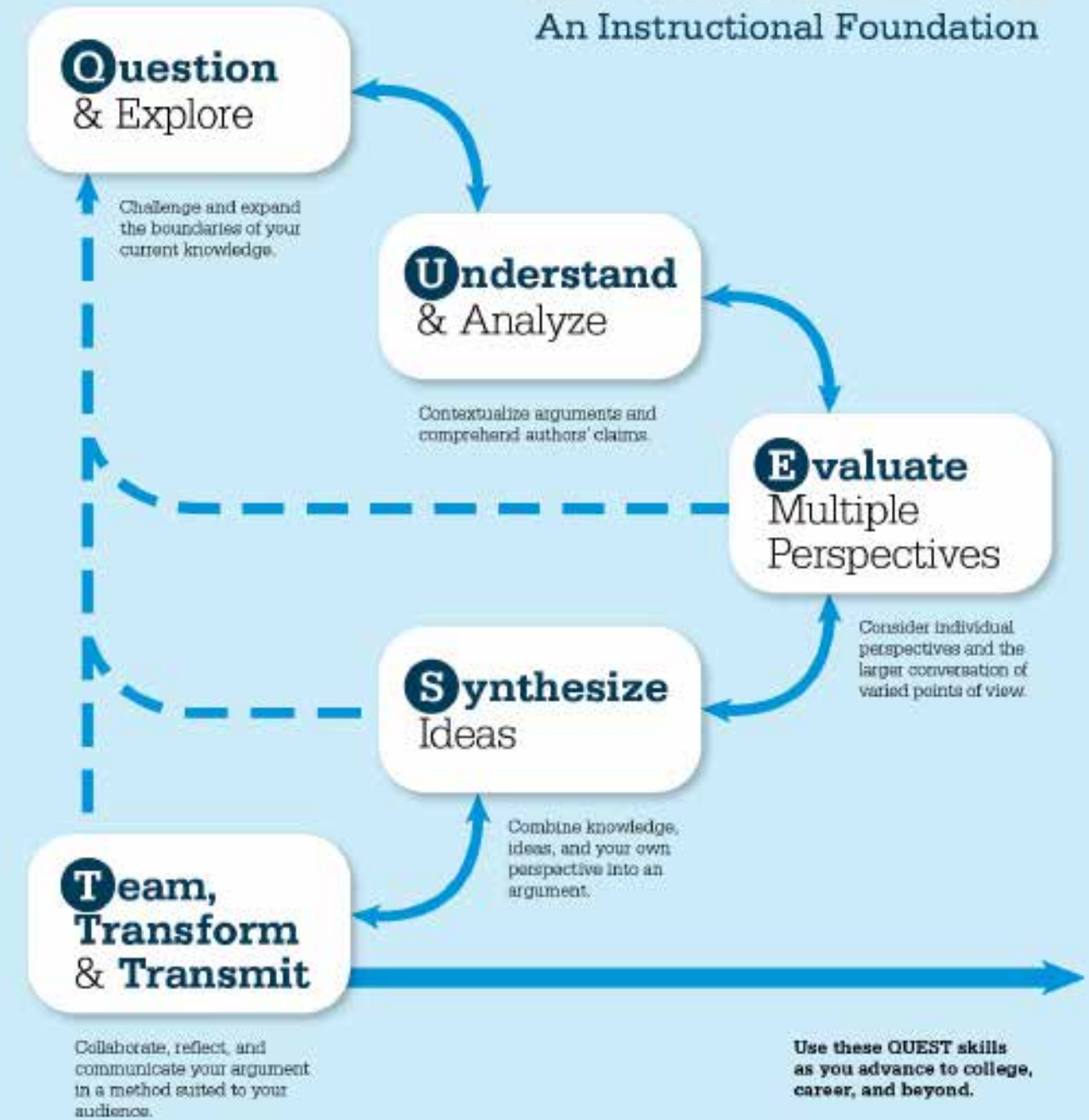
You will be expected to "question and explore the boundaries of your current knowledge in various subjects," (*Big Idea 1*); "understand and analyze arguments" (*Big Idea 2*); "evaluate multiple perspectives" (*Big Idea 3*); "synthesize research" to consider implications and new solutions (*Big Idea 4*); and work with teams to transform your research into a variety of communicable forms which will be transmitted to an audience (*Big Idea 5*).



AP Capstone™

Q·U·E·S·T

An Instructional Foundation





The AP[®] Art and Design Program

The AP[®] Art and Design Program is a set of advanced placement courses and exams offered by the College Board. These courses are designed for students who have a strong interest and aptitude in visual arts. The program consists of **three courses**: AP[®] 2-D Art and Design, AP[®] 3-D Art and Design, and AP[®] Drawing.

AP[®] 2-D Art and Design: This course focuses on two-dimensional design principles. Students create works of art using various materials and techniques, such as painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, and digital media. The portfolio for this course typically includes a sustained investigation, selected works, and a range of works.

AP[®] 3-D Art and Design: This course centers on three-dimensional design principles. Students work with various materials to create sculptures, installations, and other three-dimensional artworks. The portfolio for this course also includes a sustained investigation, selected works, and a range of works.



AP[®] Drawing: This course emphasizes drawing skills and techniques. Students explore a variety of approaches to drawing, including observational drawing, expressive drawing, and composition. The portfolio for AP[®] Drawing includes a sustained investigation, selected works, and a range of works.

Each course **culminates in a portfolio submission** that is externally assessed by college-level art instructors. The portfolios are evaluated based on specific criteria such as skill development, conceptual understanding, and the ability to use elements and principles of design effectively.

Participating in the AP[®] Art and Design Program can provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit and demonstrate their proficiency in visual arts to college admissions officers.



Why Choose AP®?

AP® IS POPULAR:

In 2023 alone, AP® exams were taken by 2,869,418 students in 23,071 secondary schools in the United States and abroad. The number of students outside the U.S. taking AP® has grown 85% since 2013, while the number of exams taken has more than doubled (+103%).

AP® IS RECOGNIZED GLOBALLY.

In addition to almost all universities in the U.S. and Canada, over 4,000 universities in more than 60 countries use AP® Exam scores for admissions, course credits, and/or advanced placement.

AP® IS EFFECTIVE.

Research shows that AP® students are more likely to succeed in college: Students who earned a 3 or higher on an AP® Exam earned higher first-year and fourth-year GPAs in college than non-AP® students of similar abilities and backgrounds.

AP® IS RIGOROUS.

AP® courses are designed as introductory-level university experiences, based on a learner-centric, rigorous methodology.

AP® IS ADAPTABLE.

AP® courses allow the flexibility to integrate with the American High School Diploma and standards.

What AP® stands for?

Advanced Placement (AP®) principles aim to uphold teachers' expertise, ensure comprehension of required course content, and provide students with academic challenges while allowing independent thinking. Key points include:

Clarity and Transparency:

AP® emphasizes clear expectations, publicly sharing course frameworks and sample assessments to prevent confusion.

Critical Thinking and Evidence:

AP® courses foster independent thinking through an unwavering focus on evidence and the scientific method.

Opposition to Censorship:

AP® respects intellectual freedom, removing the AP® designation if a school bans required topics, ensuring inclusion in the AP® Course Ledger for colleges and universities.

Avoidance of Indoctrination:

AP® promotes analysis of diverse perspectives, with no points awarded for agreement. Students aren't required to feel a certain way; instead, courses develop skills in source assessment and independent thinking.

Open-minded Exploration:

AP® encourages an open-minded approach to diverse histories and cultures, grounded in primary sources for student evaluation.

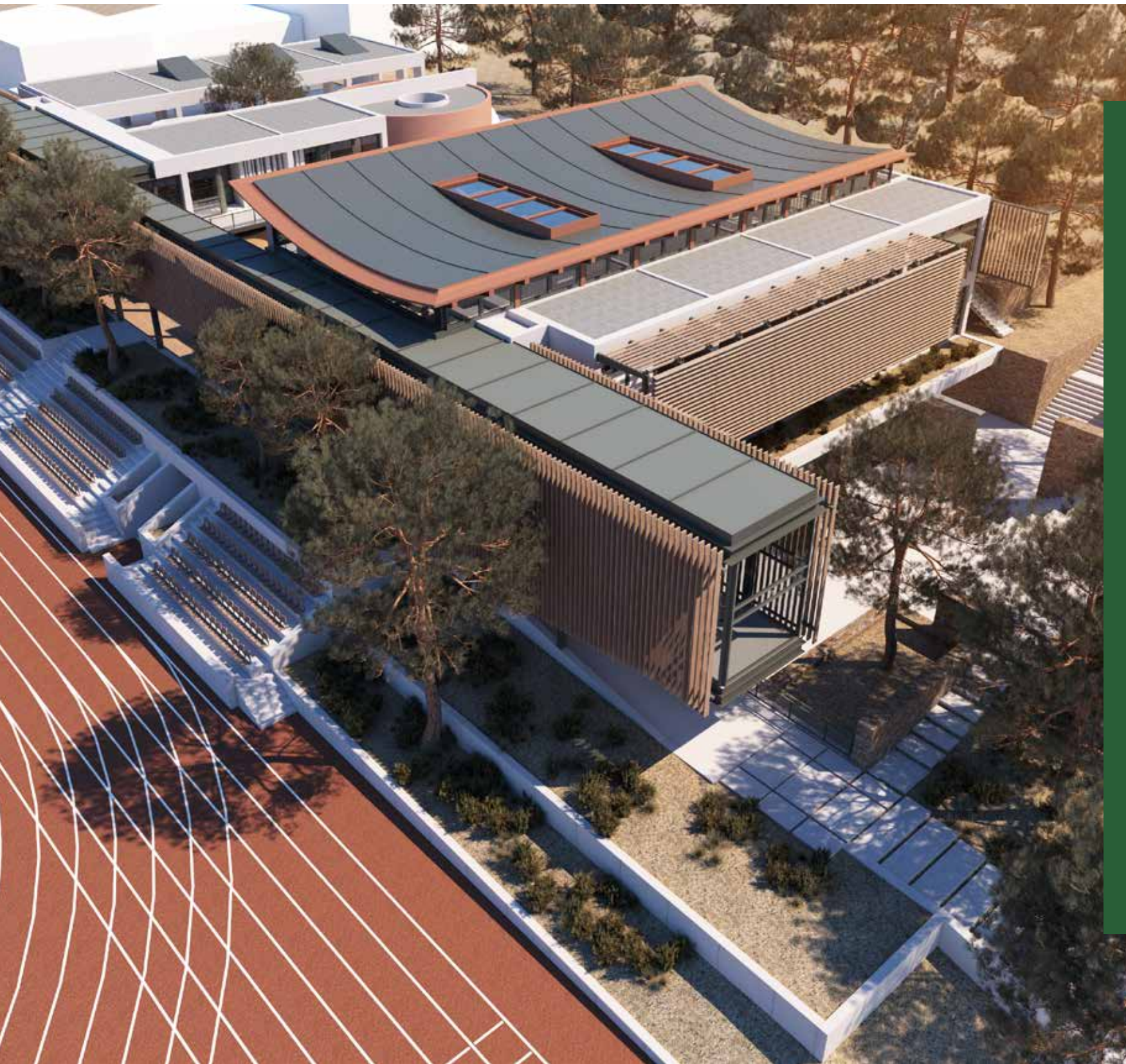
Respectful Environment:

AP® classrooms foster diversity, respect, and a culture of respectful debate, discouraging personal attacks.

Informed Choice:

Enrollment in AP® courses is a voluntary choice for parents and students. Course descriptions, crafted by expert committees, are available online. The American Council on Education validates courses, with AP® scores widely recognized for college credits.





Pinewood American International School is an independent, co-educational, non-profit day and boarding school offering an American college-preparatory curriculum, Advanced Placement courses, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program (the latter a joint program with Anatolia) to students in PreK-12 from the local and international communities. The language of instruction is English.

Pinewood joined the Anatolia College family in 2019 as the American international school of the institution. Our partnership is based on the shared values from each of our mission statements and based on the American identity of each school.

Founded in 1950, the school is accredited by the **Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools** and is an **IBO World School member**. In addition, Pinewood is assisted by the **Office of Overseas Schools, U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.** and is an active member of both the **Near/East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools (NESAS)** and the **Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE)**.

Pinewood designs and aligns its standards-based curriculum to the AERO curriculum standards as developed by the U.S. Department of State Office of Overseas Schools. As a framework, the school offers the IB Middle Years and Diploma Program. As of 2023, Pinewood also offers **Advanced Placement** courses that aim to offer another rigorous option for high school studies. Embracing a policy of **'AP for All'**, enrollment in AP courses is **nonselective**.



The **College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®)** enables willing and academically prepared students to **pursue college-level studies** - with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both - while still in high school.

The **College Board** is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that **connects students to college success and opportunity**. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education.

Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success - including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.



“Children must be taught
how to think, not what to think”
- Margaret Mead





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