

Tamalpais
High School PTSA
Presents
ABC'S of Honors
and AP



Course selection presentation for the 2023-24 School Year

Welcome Our Panelists



Counseling
English
Social Science
Science
Math
World Language
Applied Tech
Visual &
Performing Arts

Sandra Pula
Barbara Ditz
Charlie Garfink
Simon McBride
Marjorie Brindley
Catherine Bellman
Kelly Kennedy
Ben Cleaveland & Zach Gilmour

Wellness & Counseling Suggestions:

- Balance is key to success: AP/H courses & extracurriculars!
- AP/H course grade bumps: UC's & CSU's cap grade bumps to a total of 4-year long classes during 10th & 11th grade
- Junior Year: generally most rigorous!
- Dropping AP/H courses
- Each AP/H course may have an extra 2 hours per week of homework & study time
- Decide if you will take AP exams

AP English

Who is eligible to take AP English?

- AP English is open to all juniors and seniors: there are no longer formal prerequisites: no specific grade requirements, no written letter of recommendation. This reflects our inclusive orientation, wanting the rigor and benefits of AP to be accessible to all.
- A curiosity to learn, self-motivation, a desire to read closely, think deeply, and write thoroughly are *highly* recommended.
- Strong study habits including an ability to keep track of assignments, balance workload in all classes, and a history of consistent assignment completion will help students to succeed in AP English.
- Many students should consider taking an Upper Level College Prep English class during their junior year, then an AP during senior year. This can help build their skills over time, creating a solid foundation for greater success in AP English and beyond.

Advanced Placement English Courses

“A challenge open to all who are ready to apply themselves”

The focus of **AP Literature and Composition** is the appreciation, interpretation and analysis of fiction in all its forms. (We examine the art of creative writing in poetry, novels, plays, short stories, and more).

The focus of **AP English Language and Composition** is analyzing nonfiction rhetoric and learning to compose arguments on controversial issues. (We learn methods of persuasion in essay, journalism, speeches, and other nonfiction texts.).

- APs can be taken either junior or senior year at Tam.
- Though students may take both AP courses at Tam, only some colleges accept a passing AP English Exam score as a way to place above freshman level English, and most will not give credit for two college English courses.

AP Literature and Composition (AP Literature; “AP Lit”)

The main goal of AP Literature is to engage students in thoughtful literary interpretation and analysis, reading deliberately and thoroughly, taking the time to understand literary complexity

- AP literature focuses students on sensitive reading for detail while developing the sophistication of their literary interpretation..
- Students will consider a work’s overall structure, style, and themes as well as smaller-scale literary elements such as the use of tone, figurative language, imagery, symbolism, syntax and diction.
- Students develop their ability to articulate their understanding of sophisticated literature through advanced writing techniques.
- The AP Literature course will help prepare students for success on the official AP English Literature and Composition exam.

AP English Language and Composition (AP Language; AP

This cross-disciplinary course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement.

- The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of a wide variety of nonfiction literature including historical documents, classic essays, speeches, contemporary nonfiction, journalism and more.
- Students will engage in close examination of texts, think critically about those texts, and come to better understand how good writers create powerful compositions and effective arguments.
- We explore many socio-political issues for which students read a range of non-fiction texts, develop their own opinions, craft strong position statements, and learn to support their ideas with effective arguments, reasoning and evidence.
- Students apply what they learn about effective rhetoric to writing their own persuasive papers and speeches and to doing their personal best on the official AP Exam.

“Should” my student take AP English?

Students should reflect on what intellectual subject matter interests them the most, and what sorts of academic activities they really enjoy. We recommend to seek a challenge, but not to overload!

All our Upper Level English course options are interesting and engaging, and will help students develop advanced reading comprehension, more sophisticated writing, and critical thinking skills.

We always recommend students consider balancing their workload when making their schedule. We promise, whether students choose to take AP English Language or AP Lit, apply to a combined English-Social Studies program, or sign up for Upper Level College Prep Courses, they will have a rich and interesting intellectual experience.

Please encourage your student to speak with their current English teacher and counselor to discuss the best plan for their upper level English progress.

A.P. Social Studies

A.P. U.S. History (APUSH)

- APUSH covers a much bigger time period than regular US History, so it moves fast
- Students are expected to take notes on 25-30 pages of a college-level text each week outside of class
- The class prepares students for the AP Exam, although this isn't a requirement.
- For many students this is the first Social Studies class that really challenges them and often times there is an element of panic that sets in each fall when they see that this will not be an easy A. It will not be an easy A, but if students are willing to put in the time, an A is attainable. To that end, students should genuinely love history and want to dive in deep.

For rising 11th graders- Should I take APUSH or US History?!?!

If you **love** history, are willing to read and take notes outside of class each week, and are ready for a **fast-paced** learning environment, consider taking APUSH!

Both US History and APUSH will give you a solid foundation of US

AP European History

- Elective college-level course offered to juniors and seniors
- Covers Europe's history from the Renaissance to modern day with attention given to political, economic, artistic, philosophical, and social themes
- Focus on analysis of primary and secondary sources as well as improving essay writing skills
- Preparation for AP Euro Exam, but not required
- No prerequisites

What to expect:

- Faster pace than World History
- 15-25 pp of college level text reading per week with notes

For more information:

Mr. Garfink, Rm 147, cgarfink@tamdistrict.org



AP African American Studies

- Elective college-level course offered to juniors and seniors
- Covers experiences and contributions of Black/African Americans to The United States and the World.
- Focus on analysis of primary and secondary sources. We will be a variety of sources for this course: textbooks, literature, science, art, data, law, film, and music.
- No prerequisites.

What to expect:

- In depth understanding of World and American History through the perspective of the Black/African American community.
- Multiple Choice Tests
- Discussions
- Essays
- Vocab Quizzes
- 5-10 pp of college level text reading per week with notes.

For more information: Ms. Ceja (say-ha) in rm 150, mcejachau@tamdistrict.org



Science Elective Courses Offered by Grade Level

Grade Level	Elective Courses Offered
10th	Physiology, Honors Physiology , Environmental Science, Physics (with math), Honors Physics
11th	Physiology, Honors Physiology , Environmental, Marine Bio, Biomed, AP Chem , APES , Physics (with math), Honors Physics , AP Biology
12th	Physiology, Honors Physiology , Environmental, Marine Bio, Biomed, AP Chem , APES , Physics, Honors Physics , AP Biology

Honors Physiology



Course Overview:

- Similar content to physiology but more depth
 - everyone is in the same class periods regardless of honors or non-honors status
- extensions on all learning goals (aka learn more content!)
 - completed by reading textbook or other assignment (mimics how you learn in college)
- extra assignments and responsibilities for each unit
 - differentiated/more difficult tests/quizzes (covers learning extension content)
 - case studies (read and analyze about real individuals suffering from diseases and research and analyze scenarios)
 - research journal analyses (read real research publications about , term projects) outside of class
- 5 hours of Medical experience in a field related to physiology outside of class each semester

*****Read about all these in more detail [here!](#)

Honors Physiology



How do you get in?

- Same prereq as regular physiology.
 - ANYONE IS WELCOME TO TAKE HONORS PHYSIOLOGY
- Enroll in whichever "version" you think you would like to do (honors or non-honors).
 - You can check out the [honors contract here](#)
- Admittance will be granted if:
 - you show us you can and want to do it!
 - completes honors extensions in contract on time
 - maintains an 85% in the course during the first unit next year (will require a parent/student/teacher conference if lower)
- If you have any questions, email Ms. Backer or Ms. Valentine in room 64! Or just sign up and we can figure it out next year!



HONORS PHYSICS

How is honors physics different from physics?

- Honors physics covers all the topics covered in physics, but does so at a deeper and more rigorous level. It has a faster pace. Additional topics are covered as well. It is assumed that the student has mastered both algebra and trigonometry. Most students will be enrolled in calculus (although this is not required).

What are the prerequisites?

- Completion of Phun and Living Earth is required, Juniors may enroll in Physics/Honors Physics in addition to taking Chemistry and the Earth. Completion of at Advanced Algebra with a B or better strongly recommended.

What is the advantage of taking honors physics?

- A transcript showing that you have taken honors physics indicates that you are highly competent in math and physical science. Completion of honors physics will also give you a solid foundation for college-level, engineering physics.



AP BIOLOGY

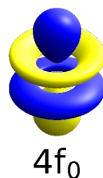
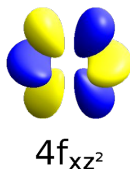
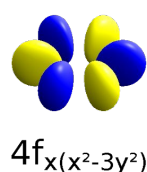
What is AP Biology?

- AP Biology is equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course.
- Scores of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Bio Exam in May may earn you up to two semesters of college credit, accelerated placement in course sequence, and shows colleges you can be successful doing *college level* work
- Prerequisite is Living Earth and concurrent enrollment or completion of Chemistry in the Earth

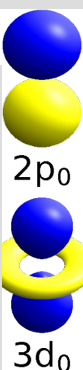


AP Chemistry

- ❑ 80% of students score a 3,4 or 5 compared to 51% nationally
- ❑ Scores of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Chemistry Exam in May can earn you up to two semesters of college credit, accelerated placement in course sequence, and shows colleges you can be successful doing *college level* work



Prerequisites:
1 year of chemistry



A.P. Environmental Science (APES)

Purpose of this class:

1. Understand patterns of nature and how humans are disrupting them (**cause and effect**)
2. Analyze environmental issues through multiple lenses (**Planet, people & prosperity**)
3. Create and justify solutions to environmental issues (**cost-benefit analysis**)
4. Increase environmental awareness while educating others!!

Units of study:

1. The Living World - Ecosystems
2. The Living World - Biodiversity
3. Populations
4. Earth Systems & Resources
5. Land & Water Use
6. Energy Resources & Consumption
7. Atmospheric Pollution
8. Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution

Prerequisites?

- Successful completion of PhUn and Living Earth, along with completion or concurrent enrollment in Chemistry of the Earth
- Successful completion of Advanced Algebra is strongly recommended

Information for Science **Honors**

AP Chemistry Information

- Email smcbride@tamdistrict.org

Physics Information

- Email Mr. Ginsburg (ginsburg@tamdistrict.org) with any questions

Honors Physiology

- Go so Ms. Backer gbacker@tamdistrict.org any time for more questions.

AP Biology Information

- Email Ms Valentine - lvalentine@tamdistrict.org

Math AP Offerings

Honors Advanced Algebra

Big Ideas/Key Concepts

- Understanding the TI-84 graphing calculator, solving equations symbolically & graphically, transformations, matrices, quadratic, polynomial, rational and radical functions, logarithms and exponents, sequences and series, finance, fractals, and some introductory content for Precalc (unit circle, graphing sinusoidal functions)

What do I need to know about this course?

- This course covers all the content of the regular Advanced Algebra course along with a significant amount of honors level problems. Tests are given on both the “basic” content and the more advanced “honors” content.
- This course has a lot of content and application.
- You will need to stay on top of your notes and your coursework.
- After successful completion of this course, students are likely to take Pre-Calculus

What are the prerequisites/placement criteria?

- Students must have passed both semesters of Algebra 1/2 with a score of B or better Geometry 1 /2 with a score of B or better in the fall semester. Qualifying students will receive an invitation via email to enroll in HAA.

Honors PreCalculus

Big Ideas/Key Concepts

- Honors PreCalculus can be broken down into three components:
- Continued study and an expansion of algebraic skills and concepts taught in Advanced Algebra with an emphasis on the following: analysis of quadratic, radical, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
- Trigonometry
- An introduction of new concepts and skills needed for Calculus

Why should I take this?

- It is a good preparation for Calculus AB, Calculus BC and SAT Math Subject Tests
- You enjoy a math class that moves at a quick pace, offers independent study opportunities, provides extra challenges, and dedicates in-class time for developing problem solving skills in a group setting.

What are the prerequisites?

- While the only formal prerequisite is successful completion of Advanced Algebra, to succeed in the Honors program. Successful students have traditionally earned a grade of A- or better in Advanced Algebra or a grade of B or better in Honors Advanced Algebra.

AP Calculus AB

Big Ideas/Key Concepts

- Calculus is the study of motion through the exploration of the properties of derivatives and integrals.

Why should I take this?

- This course is for anyone who is interested in continuing in their math progression.
- This course is for students who are considering a major in the fields of math, science, engineering or business.
- You should take this course because this is where you finally get to learn “why” you were learning all of the discrete topics in your previous high school courses. This course puts it all together.
- This course covers the equivalent of ONE college semester of Calculus. (Roughly chapters 1-7)

What are the prerequisites?

- Students must earn a C- or better in Pre-Calculus.

AP Calculus BC

Big Ideas/Key Concepts

- Calculus is the study of motion through the exploration of the properties of derivatives and integrals as well as the exploration of sequences, series and polar coordinates.

Why should I take this?

- You should take this course if you are looking for a fast paced, rigorous math class.
- This class moves quickly. If you are the student who does not need extra examples in class and can master topics quickly, then this class is for you. If this seems daunting, the AB Calculus is an equally rigorous course and might suit you better.
- You should take this course because this is where you finally get to learn “why” you were learning all of the discrete topics in your previous high school courses. This course puts it all together.
- This course covers the equivalent of TWO college semester of Calculus. (Roughly chapters 1-11)
- This course is for students who hope to major in math, engineering or science.

What are the prerequisites?

- Students should earn a B- or better in Pre-Calculus.

AP Statistics

Big Ideas/Key Concepts

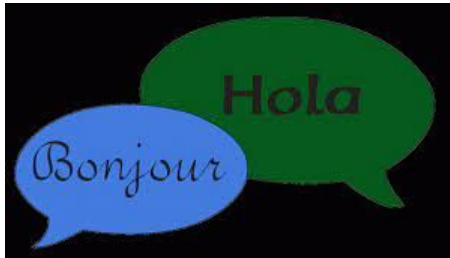
- AP Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course that introduces students to the major concepts and tools for **collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data**. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.
- Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes:
 - (1) **Exploring data**: Observing patterns and departures from patterns.
 - (2) **Planning a Study**: Deciding what and how to measure.
 - (3) **Anticipating patterns**: Producing models using probability theory and simulation
 - (4) **Statistical Inference**: Confirming models.

Why should I take this?

- One of the fastest growing classes/topics in colleges across the country is Data Science/(Statistics)
- <https://www.wsj.com/articles/at-berkeley-its-big-data-on-campus-1541066401>
- Concepts from AP Statistics will be useful for any college-intending student regardless of the students intended college major.
- Students that do not want to pursue a STEM major often excel in this 'non-math' math class.

What are the prerequisites?

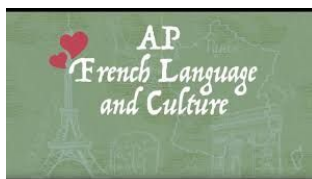
- Students must complete Advanced Algebra or equivalent with a grade of B or better; or students must complete Precalculus or equivalent with a grade of C or better.



AP French Language and Culture

AP Spanish Language and Culture

Why should students take an AP French /Spanish course?



Mme Catherine Bellman



Sr. Ted Joseph

- For students who are excited to continue their language acquisition and motivated towards achieving fluency.
- For students who are curious about other cultures and perspectives
- For students who want to study abroad
- For native or heritage speakers who want to refresh their language skills and get familiar with the format of the AP exam.

AP FRENCH LANGUAGE and CULTURE

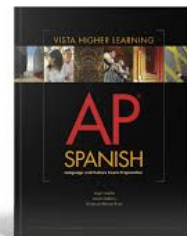
Prerequisite



- For students who have completed French 8 (=4th year of French)
- For students who have successfully completed French 6 (=3rd year of French) **AND** a teacher recommendation
- For native or heritage speakers : please contact me

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE and CULTURE

Prerequisite



From Spanish 8: B- or better with teacher recommendation

From Spanish 6: teacher recommendation and passing score on assessment

What do you need to know about the class?

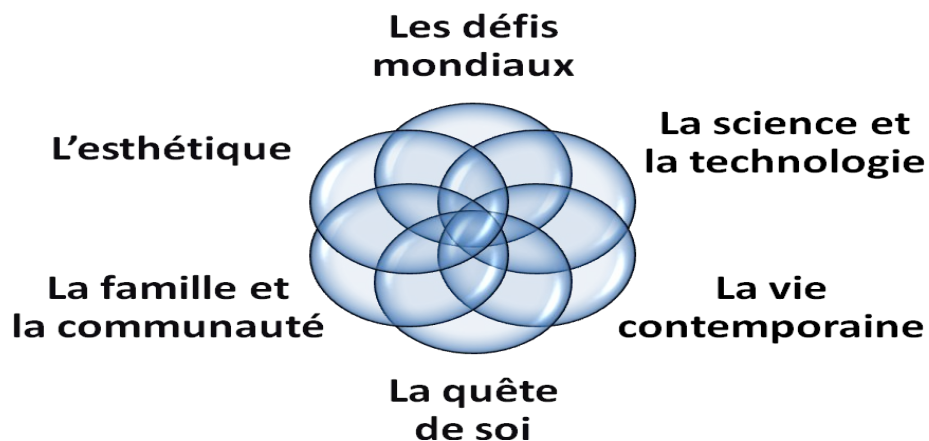
The class is **taught primarily in French**

The students will be reading and listening to **authentic material from the French speaking world.**



Students should **immerse themselves as much as possible in the language outside class** and find engaging material (*listen to French music, watch a show with French subtitles, read comic books, watch French news...*)

Les six thèmes du curriculum





cbellman@tamdistrict.org



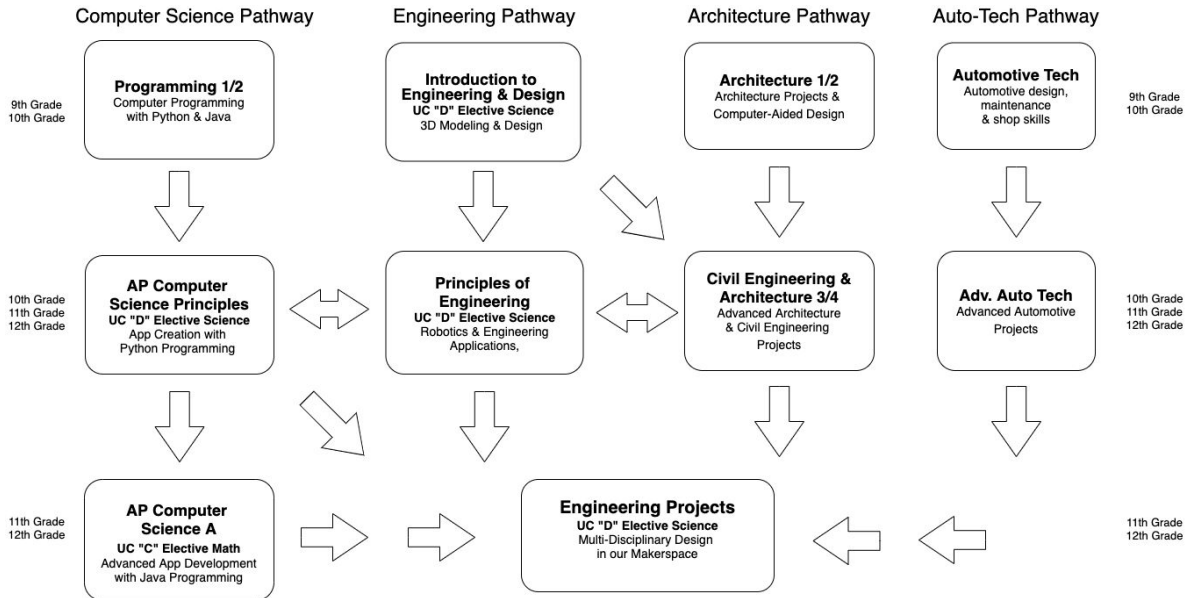
tjoseph@tamdistrict.org



Tamalpais High School
Applied Technology

AP & Honors Options

Recommended Pathways and Courses of Study 2022-23



AP Computer Science Principles

- Fulfills “D” Elective Science credit for UCs and CSUs
- No prerequisites! Reserved for sophomores, juniors and seniors
- Project-based AP course focused on the fundamentals of computer technology and building apps with the Python programming language
- No programming experience needed
- Extension problems & flexibility offered for advanced students
- AP Score is based on:
 - AP Project Submitted to a Digital Portfolio (30% of AP score)
 - Timed 2-hour, 70 multiple-choice question assessment

AP Computer Science A

- Fulfills “C” Elective Science credit for UCs and CSUs
- No prerequisites! But best for juniors and seniors with strong interest in math, science, technology, and/or computer science
- Focused on the fundamentals of the Java programming language
- Project-based, but also focused on AP Exam Standards
- Passing the AP Exam fulfills a “Intro to CS” college prerequisite for many math, science, engineering, and tech-based majors
- AP Score is based on:
 - 40 Multiple Choice Questions (1.5 hours)
 - 4 Free Response Questions where students hand-write code

If you have any questions please reach out to the following teacher:

AP Computer Science - Ms. Kennedy
kkennedy@tamdistrict.org

TAM DRAMA HONORS COURSES

Honors Advanced 5-6
Honors Advanced 7-8
Honors Theatre Directing

7th period
Drama
courses for

Juniors & Seniors

Juniors: Adv. Drama 5-6/honors
and non-honors
Seniors: Adv Drama 7-8/honors
and non-honors.

Juniors and Seniors sign up for either Adv. Drama or Honors Adv. Drama. During 7th period, students take workshops from professional theatre artists to learn skills they will apply to their acting and play production work. Think of 7th period as an exploratory skills-acquisition class. These courses are taken concurrently with 8th period Stagecraft 1-2 or 3-4.

Sign up for Honors Theatre Directing: Mentoring, producing, and leadership

10th- thru 12th-grade students have the opportunity to direct 1st- and 2nd- year Drama students in one act plays. Directors choose and cast their shows; run rehearsals; produce; and design the sets, lights, props, sound, and costumes for their plays. Directors show leadership and self-direction, and the ability to mentor younger actors. Directors receive intensive instruction from teachers and guest artists. Taken concurrently with Drama 3-8.

Design and Production

Each year ten major events & productions are fully conceived, designed and produced by students. CTE students create all the elements of sets, lights, props, costumes, and sound. Students also produce, manage, and publicize the play season.

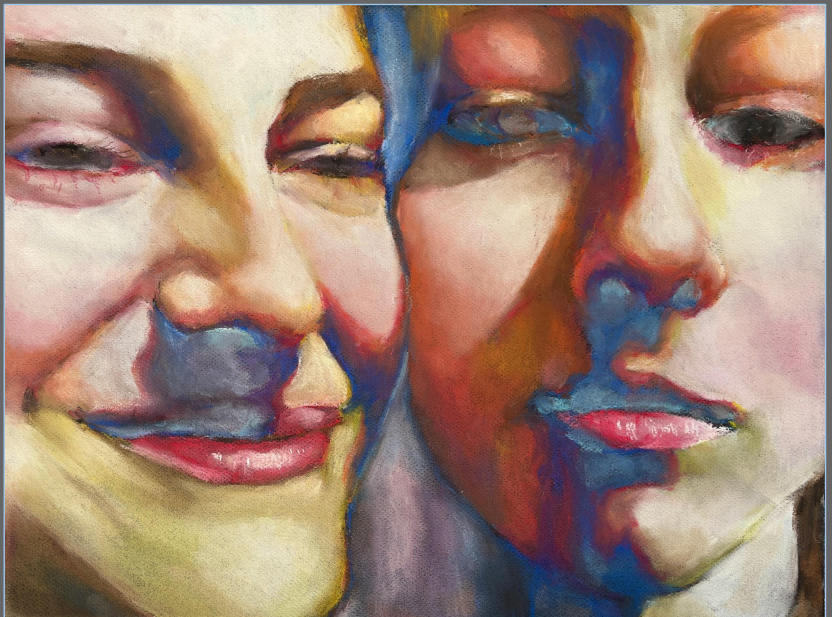


Join our creative community



Through collaboration, hands-on project-based learning, and real world projects, Tam Drama students develop a tight-knit and inclusive community. Leadership and empathetic team skills are explicitly taught and continually supported. Students have ownership of their own theatre company and are encouraged to run with their own projects and learning experience.

VISUAL ARTS HONORS & AP CLASSES



VISUAL ARTS HONORS & AP CLASSES

ART HISTORY

- AP Art History

CERAMICS

- Honors Ceramics
- AP 3-D Art & Design (Ceramics)

DRAWING & PAINTING

- Honors Drawing & Painting
- AP Drawing
- AP 2-D Art & Design (Drawing & Painting)

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Honors Photography
- AP 2-D Art & Design (Photography)

Honors -

open to 11th & 12th graders
2 years of art in discipline or
teacher approval.

AP Studio -

open to 12th graders
3 years of art in discipline or
teacher approval.

AP Art History -

open to 10th- 12th graders.
Counts as 1 year of fine art
for Graduation

For more information

AP Art History

Emma Keenan-Grice, ekaanalice@tamdistrict.org, rm. 510

Ceramics:

Gray Douglas, gdouglas@tamdistrict.org, rm. 402

Draw+Paint

Zach Gilmour zgilmour@tamdistrict.org, rm. 400

Photography:

Mary Krawczyk, mkrawczyk@tamdistrict.org, rm. 510



Thank you for joining us tonight!