



# NKC Schools

NORTH KANSAS CITY SCHOOLS



## Gold Medallion Honors Diploma

AND

## AP Capstone™ Diploma

## 2024 – 2025

### Planning Guide for Students and Parents



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# GOALS FOR GRADUATES



NKC Schools and our community of students, families, teachers, staff, leaders, business partners and the Board of Education are committed to developing in all students a set of key competencies that are transferable across time, space, and any situation to prepare for a future of success. The seven chosen for [NKC Schools' Portrait of a Graduate](#) represent the key competencies for student success to graduation and beyond. Students will be exposed to these seven competencies, along with the Goals list below.

- Goal 1: Students will be **INDEPENDENT LEARNERS** who:
- Know how to locate and use information.
  - Utilize a variety of strategies, tools, and forms of technology in various settings to effectively meet their individual learning needs.
  - Demonstrate the essential academic skills necessary to continue to learn.
  - Know how to find meaning in the arts.
- Goal 2: Students will be **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS** who:
- Present ideas in a variety of contexts.
  - Express themselves artistically and creatively.
  - Listen to others for understanding.
- Goal 3: Students will be **ADAPTABLE PROBLEM SOLVERS AND DECISION MAKERS** who:
- Think independently and creatively.
  - Set and achieve goals.
  - Analyze and evaluate solutions.
  - Take informed or calculated risks for improvement and growth.
  - Manage change.
- Goal 4: Students will be **RESPONSIBLE PERSONS** who:
- Respect themselves and others.
  - Exhibit a caring attitude toward others in the family, workplace, and society.
  - Take responsibility for their own actions.
  - Recognize the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
  - Practice ethical decision making.
- Goal 5: Students will be **CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS** who:
- Identify and evaluate societal issues and create potential solutions.
  - Value and practice the democratic process.
  - Act on environmental and global concerns recognizing the interdependence of all things.
  - Work to promote and sustain social justice and equity.
- Goal 6: Students will be **PRODUCTIVE QUALITY WORKERS** who:
- Demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills for entry into the workplace.
  - Exhibit a positive work ethic.
  - Work cooperatively with others.
  - Use technology as a tool for greater productivity.
  - Achieve high standards of performance.



NORTH  
KANSAS CITY  
SCHOOLS

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September 2024

Dear Gold Medallion Honors and AP Capstone™ Diploma Candidates,

Congratulations on your decision to pursue one of the North Kansas City Schools diplomas of distinction! By doing so, you have shown a willingness to be challenged and to accept personal responsibility for your learning.

Along with your family, the North Kansas City Schools will provide a support system that will make the path you have chosen a little smoother. The principal of your high school as well as guidance counselors, A+ Principals, Gifted Resource Specialists, teachers of advanced courses, and your advisor and/or your AP Seminar teacher are ready and willing to assist you each day of this challenging journey. This planning guide will be a useful and important resource as you prepare for each year. Never hesitate to ask for help along your path to any of the diplomas of distinction.

Our team will communicate with colleges and universities on your behalf, making certain admissions officers are aware of the challenge and the academic work you have undertaken on our path to earning the Gold Medallion Honors and/or AP Capstone™ Diplomas. We know you will be prepared for university coursework.

On behalf of our school district, I'd like to applaud your decision to be a Gold Medallion Honors and/or AP Capstone™ Diploma candidate. I feel certain it will provide an exciting and academically rewarding experience for you.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Kate Place*

Mrs. Kate Place,

Principal of Gifted Programs

E-mail – [kate.place@nkcschools.org](mailto:kate.place@nkcschools.org)

Phone (816) 321-5350

# Who to Contact for More Information

## School Level:

North Kansas City High School	321-4626 321-5645 321-4521 321-6258	Dr. Keith Jones, Principal Marcus Myers, Gifted Resource Specialist Kerry Durrill, Gold Medallion Instructor Andrea Taylor, Gold Medallion Instructor
Oak Park High School	321-5320 321-4975 321-6569 321-6130	Dr. Molly Smith, Principal Alicia Kloeppe, Gifted Resource Specialist Frieda Green, Gold Medallion Instructor Dr. Emily Grover, Gold Medallion Instructor
Staley High School	321-5330 321-6302 321-4359	Dr. Larry Smith, Principal Carol Toney, Gifted Resource Specialist Karen Eickhoff, Gold Medallion Instructor
Winnetonka High School	321-5340 321-6371	Dr. Edward Tate, Principal Melanie Warner, Gifted Resource Specialist

## District Level:

Mrs. Kate Place, Principal of Gifted Programs	321-5350
Dr. Lori Dameron, Coordinator, Postsecondary Success	321-4432
Dr. Brett Potts Executive Director of Academic Services	321-6030

## Nondiscrimination Statement

The North Kansas City School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Further details are available on the website for the North Kansas City School District.



# INTRODUCTION

## *Why should students seek the Gold Medallion Honors Diploma?*

According to the University of Missouri, the most important factor for admission, next to the ACT score, is the course of study that a student selects in high school. Course of study has a direct impact on the ACT score. The **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma**, which requires greater participation in advanced core classes and increased experience in performance events and assessments, therefore, will better prepare students for university success than the College Readiness Diploma. The College Readiness Diploma, which matches the state requirements, will NOT qualify students for entrance to many colleges and universities in Missouri.

North Kansas City Schools sets high expectations for students to accept the challenges of rigorous curricula through performance assessments, Dual Credit courses, Advanced Placement courses/exams, portfolio development, AP Seminar, and internship experiences through Pathway coursework. Students accepting the challenge of the Distinguished Achievement Program may earn college credit, often receive advanced standing when entering college, may explore career pathways, discover interests and strengths, and be better prepared for the transition from high school to college.

Students taking the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** course of study receive a *jump start*, by taking Honors/Pre-AP (levels 9, 10), and Dual Credit/College Credit and/or Advanced Placement courses (levels 11, 12). Students in levels 11-12 courses may earn high school credit AND Add Advanced placement grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. The minimum requirement is eight advanced courses over four years of high school.

Successful completion of **AP Seminar** (including completing all elements of the AP Seminar Exam) is required for the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma**. In **AP Seminar**, students will examine materials like news stories, research studies, and literary works so they can craft arguments to support their point of view and communicate them effectively through the use of various media. Students are assessed through a combination of individual and team projects and presentations as well as through a written exam.

**AP Seminar** is the first of two courses in the **AP Capstone™** program. **AP Research** is the second course. If students earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing, they will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma™**. AP Research is an option for students pursuing the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma**, but the course does count as one of the additional challenging courses for the diploma. **AP Research** is also an option a student may choose for their senior-year ELA course for high school graduation.

**Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** graduates are recognized at Awards Night and at their respective high school graduations. Distinguished graduates' names are printed in graduation programs as **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** recipients. Transcripts are designated with *Honor Graduate*. Each student receives a gold medallion keepsake and a gold diploma cover with the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** seal.

Information and forms for the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** are available on the pages that follow. All Distinguished Achievement Program students are encouraged to qualify for the A+ benefits option. See the A+ Schools Student Requirements and Benefits page for details.

# What Colleges Say about the Gold Medallion Honors Diploma

When Admissions Directors at Missouri University-Columbia, Truman State University, and William Jewell College were asked why students should consider the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma**, they replied:

*“Because even the very best students struggle with the rigor of coursework at MU, it is crucial that students take advantage of the most challenging courses offered in their high school curriculum. The payoffs are better test scores and better preparation to meet the competition of the university setting. The better prepared you are, the better you will do at MU or any college.”*

Director of Admissions  
University of Missouri-Columbia

*“If you have a choice, take the most demanding coursework you can manage in high school. It will illustrate to colleges that you don’t shy away from Challenge, and it will provide you with the strongest possible foundation for whatever adventures lie ahead – in college and in life. A solid grade point is important, but a solid grade point in rigorous college preparatory curriculum is even better. Good course selections really do matter!”*

Co-Director of Admissions  
Truman State University

*“The Admission Committee at William Jewell College considers more than the grade point average and standardized test score when evaluating an applicant. The committee looks at the whole person in an attempt to answer the question, Will this student graduate from William Jewell College? The committee will often focus on the curriculum the student has completed at the high school level in order to answer this important question. We would rather see B’s in a college preparatory curriculum than A’s in courses that have no relevance to a student’s success at the college level.”*

Dean of Enrollment Development  
William Jewell College

# What Students Say about the Gold Medallion Honors Diploma

When **Gold Medallion** graduates were asked why students should consider the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma**, they replied:

*“I am in my sophomore year at Northwest Missouri State University, and I cannot even begin to express how thankful I am to have gone through the Gold Medallion program. I have given multiple presentations in the short time that I have been a student here and I have received an A on every single presentation. My teachers always comment on how great my presentation looks, how well I presented the information I had, etc. Without the Gold Medallion program, I would not be as good of a presenter as I am now. I have no fear when presenting to my fellow students in class and presentations are a breeze to get through now. I am also able to give my fellow students critical feedback on their presentations because I know what a great presentation should look like.”*

*“Because of what you've taught me, I'm making well-researched projects. I also wanted to tell you that when other students present, I can only see what they're doing wrong. Thank you so much for what you've helped me accomplish. I couldn't have done any of these presentations without Gold Medallion!”*

*“I've been assigned my first PowerPoint presentation of the year in my film class. Pretty stoked because Gold Medallion made it super easy!”*

*“I had to give a persuasive speech last week. Not only did I get an A, but my teacher wants to use it as an example in her next published book! Just thought I'd share and thank those Gold Medallion skills you taught me for working wonders once again!”*

# Honors Diploma Options & Requirements

## AP Capstone™ Diploma Option

Students are eligible to earn the AP Capstone™ Diploma. This diploma program was developed and is sanctioned by the College Board, and it is listed as one of the Honors Diploma options on the “Common App” (a college application many students use when applying to multiple universities).

The AP Capstone™ Diploma can be earned by students who successfully complete the AP Capstone™ courses – AP Seminar and AP Research – with a score of 3 or above on the assessments and earn a 3 or above on 4 additional AP courses taken at any point during a student’s high school career. AP Seminar is an elective course open to any student in grades 10 through 12. AP Research is an English Language Arts (ELA) course and can only be taken by seniors who have completed AP Seminar as a prerequisite. Students cannot take AP Seminar and AP Research concurrently.

Students may choose to take AP Seminar and AP Research as stand-alone courses, and successful completion of those courses with a score of 3 or above on the exams allows a student to earn an AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

**Students who want to earn the AP Capstone™ Diploma or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate must enroll in AP Seminar for the entire school year.**

Students who are pursuing the Gold Medallion Honors Diploma are required to take the year-long AP Seminar course instead of the retired Research Methods and Research courses (each one semester). The shift from two one-semester courses to a year-long course does not change the number of credits required for the Gold Medallion Honors Diploma.

Students can earn the AP Capstone™ Diploma as either an extension of or in addition to the current Gold Medallion Diploma. The chart below provides a comparison of the requirements of both diploma programs, as well as the requirements needed to earn both challenging diplomas simultaneously:

<i>Honor Diploma Program and Requirements</i>	<b>Gold Medallion Honors Diploma</b>	<b>AP Capstone™ Diploma</b>	<b>Combined Gold Medallion and AP Capstone Diploma</b>
<i>Research Courses &amp; Credit Awarded</i>	AP Seminar (1-year elective)	AP Seminar (1-year elective) AP Research (1-year <b>ELA</b> )	AP Seminar (1-year elective) AP Research (1-year <b>ELA</b> )
<i>Other Advanced Courses</i>	7 other advanced courses throughout HS	4 additional AP Courses throughout HS (earning a score of 3+ on the exams)	7 other advanced courses throughout HS, (including 4 AP earning 3+ on the exams)
<i>GPA</i>	3.2 Required	No GPA requirement	3.2 Required
<i>Community Service</i>	100 Hours, Community Service, Tutoring, or Mentoring ( <i>approved by the Community Service Coordinator</i> )	None	100 Hours, Community Service, Tutoring, or Mentoring ( <i>approved by the Community Service Coordinator</i> )
<i>ACT/SAT Performance</i>	85% and above of the national average; Score of 26+; must take ACT twice to qualify for the waiver process	None	85% and above of the national average; Score of 26+; must take ACT twice to qualify for the waiver process
<i>Portfolio/Reflection</i>	Comprehensive	None	Comprehensive
<i>Public Presentation</i>	2 Multimedia Presentations	2 Multimedia Presentations 1 Oral Presentation Defense	2 Multimedia Presentations 1 Oral Presentation Defense
<i>National Recognition</i>	None	Common App listing	Common App listing
<i>Diploma Conferred</i>	Gold Medallion Honors	AP Capstone	Gold Medallion & AP Capstone

\*Additional information about the AP Capstone™ Diploma can be found beginning on pg. 43.

# How to Use this Guide

Each component of the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** has specific information and accompanying required forms to assist you through this process. Requirements for the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** may be completed over a four-year period. For example:

- **Community Service** hours may be completed at any time. Starting these hours during the freshman year is a good idea. Service must be completed at a pre-approved location.
- **Comprehensive Portfolio** requirements should be completed each year. This will make the final presentation much easier to prepare.

## Whom Do I Contact with My Questions?

At the School Level:

- School Counselor
- Gifted Resource Specialist
- AP Seminar or AP Research Teacher
- A+ Principal

At the District Level:

- Dr. Lori Dameron, Coordinator, Postsecondary Success  
Phone: (816) 321-4432  
E-mail : [lori.dameron@nkcschools.org](mailto:lori.dameron@nkcschools.org)
- Mrs. Kate Place, Principal of K-12 Gifted Programs  
Phone: (816) 321-5350  
E-mail: [kate.place@nkcschools.org](mailto:kate.place@nkcschools.org)

# Grade Point Average and Class Rank

To encourage and recognize students who accept the challenges of academic rigor and demonstrate high performance, all students who complete the components of the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** will graduate with distinction and are recognized as Honor Graduates. To further recognize students for accepting the challenges of advanced course work, weighted GPA points will be calculated in determining **Class Rank**. This allows students to be recognized for accepting the academic challenges of advanced courses and not to be adversely impacted by grades in such rigorous coursework.

## Standard/ Unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA)

To calculate the standard (or unweighted) Grade Point Average (GPA), course grade points are summed and divided by the number of course units completed. For unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA) calculations, points are assigned for each course completed as follows:

- 4.0 grade points for an A
- 3.0 grade points for a B
- 2.0 grade points for a C
- 1.0 grade point for a D
- 0.0 grade point for an F

## Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA)

Class rank is based on a student's weighted GPA for satisfactory completion of Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) courses. Our district employs a two-tier weighted credit scale if a student passes the challenging course. The weighted credit for all Honors, Pre-IB, or Pre-AP will include an addition of a .5 weight per semester.

For Honors, Pre-IB, or Pre-AP courses, weighted GPA calculations are based on:

- 4.5 grade points for an A
- 3.5 grade points for a B
- 2.5 grade points for a C
- 1.5 grade point for a D
- 0.0 grade point for an F

For Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Credit, Early College Concurrent Credit, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), courses that end in a Technical Skills Assessment (TSA), and AP Seminar for Gold Medallion, GPA calculations are based on:

- 5.0 grade points for an A
- 4.0 grade points for a B
- 3.0 grade points for a C
- 2.0 grade points for a D
- 0.0 grade point for an F

GPA and Class Rank are calculated at the end of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th semesters. Each family will have access to an unweighted GPA, weighted GPA, and a class rank for college applications.

# Guidelines for Community Service

## North Kansas City Schools

1. Using the district application form, students will apply for their community service projects through the designated Community Service Coordinator. Projects must be approved **prior** to beginning the work. Students should request a pre-approved Community Service Monitoring Form from the designated Community Service Coordinator **prior** to beginning the community service project or risk **not** receiving approval for the service completed.
2. Students will validate their service hours by completing the district Community Service Monitoring Form (on the next page) and returning it to the designated Community Service Coordinator **within two weeks** following project completion.
3. Students will be evaluated on their performance by the supervisor of the community service organization.
4. Students are expected to complete their service hours outside the school day with the exception of hours performed during lunchtime, seminar, or study hall, if those hours can be arranged.
5. Students are responsible for their own transportation.
6. Service projects done through school clubs, community organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, etc., or church youth groups **may** count toward fulfillment of the community service component. Service projects that are performed as a required part of a course or to earn points for a school club or activity may be counted. Community service may **not** be performed for a relative.
7. Work done for wages does **not** count as community service.
8. Any community service in which students work with younger children requires prior completion of a tutoring/mentoring training session.
9. Hours completed for the A+ Program may be counted for both A+ and community service.

**Remember: All hours counted toward the A+ Program must be done with students younger or of lesser ability in a North Kansas City Schools program and must be supervised by a school district employee.**

# Service to Community Form

for Career/College Readiness Diploma

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduation Year 20** \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple forms can be submitted

*Students: Supply all information in the blanks below in a neat and accurate manner. Correct information is essential as this will be used to confirm your 20 hours of Service to Community with the organization listed. Falsehoods or forgeries on this form are the basis for denying any or all hours accumulated. Form to be submitted when your 20 hours of Service to Community are complete.*

Organization	Volunteer Dates	Total Time
<b>1) Name of Organization:</b>	date:	
<b>Address:</b>	date:	
<b>Phone:</b>	date:	
<b>Describe the services or tasks:</b>	date:	
	date:	
<b>PRINT the name of the Supervisor:</b>	date:	
Signature _____	date:	
	date:	
	date:	
<b>2) Name of Organization:</b>	date:	
<b>Address:</b>	date:	
<b>Phone:</b>	date:	
<b>Describe the services or tasks:</b>	date:	
	date:	
<b>PRINT the name of the Supervisor:</b>	date:	
Signature _____	date:	
	date:	
	date:	
<b>3) Name of Organization:</b>	date:	
<b>Address:</b>	date:	
<b>Phone:</b>	date:	
<b>Describe the services or tasks:</b>	date:	
	date:	
<b>PRINT the name of the Supervisor:</b>	date:	
Signature _____	date:	
	date:	
	date:	

**TOTAL Hours** \_\_\_\_\_

**The following guidelines are to be utilized as a guide for required 20 hours of Service to Community.**

1. Service to Community is volunteer work for which no other credit or monetary compensation is received.
2. In general, the following types of activities will qualify for the Service to Community requirements.
  - Charitable activities for non-profit organizations
  - Individual student tutoring (A+ Peer Tutoring Program or under the direct supervision of a teacher outside the regular school hours)
  - Civic activities sponsored by clubs, Parks and Recreations, Chambers of Commerce, businesses, churches, schools, hospitals, residential care facilities
  - Activities of school-sponsored clubs that benefit the community, such as school-based Booster Clubs

**Signature of Student** \_\_\_\_\_

By signing, I verify that the above information is accurate

# Gold Medallion Honors Diploma

## Comprehensive Portfolio Guidelines

- **Definition:** A Comprehensive Portfolio is a purposeful collection of student efforts or “educational products.”

Portfolios may be used to show best work, evidence of student participation in extracurricular activities, student reflection on academic or social/emotional growth, and to demonstrate that the student has met certain standards.

- **Contents:**
  - The student must choose one representative sample of graded work from each Core Class (Communication Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies) for **each high school grade level**.
  - Chosen items **must** include teacher evaluation and comments.
  - At each grade level, the student **must** include one sample of graded work, with teacher evaluation and comment, from an elective course.
  - The student will select one extracurricular activity and an item to represent that activity.
  - The student will include a reflection over community service; reflection may be a summary of all community service or highlight one particular service component.
- **Reflections:** Within the last month of each school year, the student must complete a final reflection using the following guidelines:
  - How he/she went about the process of completing the work of the portfolio for this year.
  - What he/she would do differently the next academic year.
  - The importance of the selected items to his/her academic progress.
  - Specific reasons for choosing these items over others.
  - Value of this work to his/her next level of education.

- **Display/Presentation:**
  - The Comprehensive Portfolio will be on display for a hearing panel.
  - Hearing panel members will listen and respond to the student's overview of his/her Comprehensive Portfolio (8-10 minutes).
  - The student overview will be based on the following essential question: *What four items in this portfolio best represent me as a learner/as a person, and what exactly do they represent?*

**Gold Medallion Honors Diploma Comprehensive Portfolio items and reflections must be ready for display and formally presented prior to graduation.**

# Comprehensive Portfolio: Table of Contents

## Grade 9 Section

- **English Language Arts**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Social Studies**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Mathematics**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Science**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Selected Elective**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Extracurricular Activity**  
Activity and Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Activity Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Reflection on Grade 9 Portfolio Work**

# Comprehensive Portfolio: Table of Contents

## Grade 10 Section

- **English Language Arts**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Social Studies**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Mathematics**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Science**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Selected Elective**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Extracurricular Activity**  
Activity and Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Activity Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Reflection on Grade 10 Portfolio Work**

# Comprehensive Portfolio: Table of Contents

## Grade 11 Section

- **English Language Arts**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Social Studies**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Mathematics**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Science**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Selected Elective**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Extracurricular Activity**  
Activity and Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Activity Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Reflection on Grade 11 Portfolio Work**

# Comprehensive Portfolio: Table of Contents

## Grade 12 Section

- **English Language Arts**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Social Studies**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Mathematics**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Science**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Selected Elective**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Extracurricular Activity**  
Activity and Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Activity Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Reflection on Grade 12 Portfolio Work**

# Comprehensive Portfolio: Table of Contents

## Final Student Reflection Section

- **English Language Arts**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Social Studies**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Mathematics**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Science**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Student Selected Elective**  
Course Title, Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Title of Item Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Extracurricular Activity**  
Activity and Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Activity Chosen: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Final Student Reflection on Portfolio Work**

# Senior Portfolio Presentation Checklist

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

## Contents of Portfolio

Artifacts from 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in the following areas:

- \_\_\_\_\_ English Language Arts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Selected Elective
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extracurricular Activity

### **Student Reflection on Grade 9 Portfolio Work and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Experiences**

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed to Quality Level of Expectation

Artifacts from 10<sup>th</sup> Grade in the following areas:

- \_\_\_\_\_ English Language Arts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Selected Elective
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extracurricular Activity

### **Student Reflection on Grade 10 Portfolio Work and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Experiences**

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed to Quality Level Expectation

Artifacts from 11<sup>th</sup> Grade in the following areas:

- \_\_\_\_\_ English Language Arts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Selected Elective
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extracurricular Activity

### **Student Reflection on Grade 11 Portfolio Work and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Experiences**

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed to Quality Level Expectation

Artifacts from 12<sup>th</sup> Grade in the following areas:

- \_\_\_\_\_ English Language Arts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Science
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Selected Elective
- \_\_\_\_\_ Extracurricular Activity

### **Student Reflection on Grade 12 Portfolio Work and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Experiences**

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed to Quality Level Expectation

\_\_\_\_\_ Community Service Reflection

## Portfolio Presentation

\_\_\_\_\_ Student presented an overview of his/her Senior Portfolio in 8-10 minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student's overview satisfactorily addressed the essential question:

*What 4 pieces of this portfolio best represent me as a learner and as a person, and what exactly do they represent?*

\_\_\_\_\_ Student presented this to a panel during his/her senior year, and the names and signatures of the panel members are included below.

Panel Member Name _____	Signature _____
Panel Member Name _____	Signature _____
Panel Member Name _____	Signature _____

# Gold Medallion Honors Diploma

## Graduation Requirements

To meet high school graduation requirements for the Distinguished Achievement Program, a student must complete a minimum of 26 units of credit during grades 9-12. The program shall consist of the following and must include 8 or more full-year advanced courses (Pre IB, Pre AP, Honors, Dual Credit, Early College Concurrent Credit, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB).)

Course Description	Units
English Language Arts Must include English Language Arts I & II, and two Advanced ELA courses Acceptable courses include: AP Language, AP Literature, College English, and AP Research	4 units
MATHEMATICS Must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and one credit of additional advanced math	4 units
SCIENCE Must include Biology, Chemistry, and one additional credit of a Science Elective	3 units
SOCIAL SCIENCE Must include World History, U.S History, American Citizenship/AP Government and one Social Studies Elective: AP Psychology, AP US History, AP World History, AP Human Geography, Psychology, or Sociology	4 units
FINE ARTS	1 unit
PRACTICAL ARTS	1 unit
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 unit
HEALTH	.5 unit
PERSONAL FINANCE	.5 unit
MODERN LANGUAGE Must include 2 units of the same language	2 units
AP Seminar <b>is required</b> and counts as one advanced course. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Performance Task 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual Research Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1080-1320 research/content specific words</li> <li>• Minimum of four scholarly sources and four credible sources</li> <li>• Proper citation format for final bibliography</li> <li>• Must be uploaded to the College Board by deadline (end of February)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Team Multi-media Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8-10 minutes of research/content specific</li> <li>• Professional dress for teacher panel rehearsal and final video</li> <li>• Must be presented by College Board deadline (end of February)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Performance Task 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Individual Written Argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1800-2200 research/content specific words</li> <li>• Minimum of eight scholarly sources and four credible sources</li> <li>• Proper citation format for final bibliography</li> <li>• Must be uploaded to the College Board two days prior to deadline (end of April)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Individual Multi-media Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6-8 minutes of research/content specific</li> <li>• Professional dress for teacher panel rehearsal and final video</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1 unit

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Must be presented by College Board deadline (end of April)</li> <li>○ Sit for the AP Seminar End of Course exam and give a valid attempt</li> <li>○ Earn a B or higher in BOTH semesters of AP Seminar</li> </ul>	
<p>Electives: Additional credits in modern language and/or additional advanced courses English Language Arts (Advanced ELA Courses include College English, AP Literature and Composition, AP Language and Composition, and AP Research) Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts, &amp; Practical Arts are recommended.</p>	4 units
<p><b>TOTAL</b> Must include 8 or more full-year advanced courses</p>	<b>26 units</b>

## Additional Requirements

- Maintain a **3.2 GPA**
- Perform at or above the **85<sup>th</sup> percentile** on an 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade national standardized academic test (ACT or SAT); must take the ACT at least twice to qualify for the test-waiver process.
- Within the 26 required credits, **8 or more must be in Pre IB/Honors, Dual Credit, or AP courses.**
- Participate in **100 hours of community service**, tutoring, or mentoring (approved by the Community Service Coordinator)
- Will complete the AP Seminar course and maintain a B BOTH semesters. Will take the AP Seminar exam.
- **Comprehensive Portfolio/Presentation** (best work, extracurricular activity, and student reflection)

**By completing A+ requirements, students are eligible for A+ benefits; see A+ Program Information Page.**

**Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** candidates may appeal to the principal for a waiver in extreme situations. The intent, however, is to keep the diploma standards high. Planning ahead is essential and should begin during the ninth-grade year. Required preparation semesters may not be waived.

**Note: Seniors must successfully complete all graduation requirements prior to participation in graduation ceremonies.**

**Due to changing admission requirements, students need to check with colleges/universities each year to be sure their course of study meets entrance requirements for specific schools.**

# Summary of Gold Medallion Honors Diploma Requirements and Contact Information

## Gold Medallion Honors Diploma Requirement Summary

- Earn at least a 3.2 GPA in all courses grades 9-12 including college credit classes (correspondence courses will not be included)
- Perform at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on an 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade national standardized academic test (ACT or SAT); must take it at least two times to qualify for the test-waiver process.
- Within the 26 required credits, 8 or more must be in Pre IB/Honors, Dual Credit, or AP courses.
- Participate in 100 hours of community service, tutoring, or mentoring (approved by the Community Service Coordinator)
- Sit for the AP exam and earn a B or higher in BOTH semesters of AP Seminar
- Develop a Comprehensive Portfolio with examples of best work, extracurricular participation, and reflection
- Demonstrate technology competencies

## Contact Person for Specific Requirements

Requirements for Graduates	Contact
Minimum of a 3.2 GPA in all courses grades 9-12 including college credit classes (correspondence courses will not be included)	High School Counselor
26 Units of Credit, including at least 8 Units of Pre-AP/ Honors, Dual Credit, and/or Advanced Placement (previous Challenge courses will continue to count toward GM)	High School Counselor
Perform at or above the 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile on an 11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> grade national standardized academic test (ACT – Score 26+ or SAT); must take the exam at least twice to qualify for the test-waiver process.	High School Counselor
100 Hours, Community Service, Tutoring, or Mentoring (approved by the Community Service Coordinator)	A+ Coordinator or Gold Medallion Coordinator
AP Seminar presentation based upon research work	AP Seminar Teacher
Comprehensive Portfolio Presentation	Gold Medallion Coordinator / Gifted Resource Specialists



As a student of the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma Program**, I understand the following program components and the ethical expectations listed below, and I agree to adhere to them:

- I agree to engage in a 26-unit curriculum including at least eight advanced courses.
- I agree to maintain a 3.2 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- I agree to sit for the AP Seminar End of Course exam and give a valid attempt.
- I agree to earn a B or higher in BOTH semester of AP Seminar.
- I agree to complete 100 hours of community service with pre-approval from the Community Service Coordinator or A+ Principal.
- I agree to compile a comprehensive portfolio according to diploma program guidelines and to present the portfolio during May of my senior year before a designated panel.
- I agree to successfully complete the required course, AP Seminar with the following expectations:
  - Performance Task 1
    - Individual Research Report
      - 1080-1320 research/content specific words
      - Minimum of four scholarly sources and four credible sources
      - Proper citation format for final bibliography
      - Must be uploaded to the College Board by deadline (end of February)
    - Team Multi-media Presentation
      - 8-10 minutes of research/content specific
      - Professional dress for teacher panel rehearsal and final video
      - Must be presented by College Board deadline (end of February)
  - Performance Task 2
    - Individual Written Argument
      - 1800-2200 research/content specific words
      - Minimum of eight scholarly sources and four credible sources
      - Proper citation format for final bibliography
      - Must be uploaded to the College Board two days prior to deadline (end of April)
    - Individual Multi-media Presentation
      - 6-8 minutes of research/content specific
      - Professional dress for teacher panel rehearsal and final video
  - Must be presented by College Board deadline (end of April)
  - Sit for the AP Seminar End of Course exam and give a valid attempt
- I understand that I am required to perform at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on an 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade national standardized academic test (ACT or SAT); Must take the exam at least twice to qualify for the test-waiver process.
- I always will be able to sign my name to the following statement: *On my honor, I promise that I have neither given nor received help on an assignment/examination, nor will I pass on information to others. I am not submitting the work of others as my own. I will take appropriate action in the following ways to initiate investigation of a perceived violation: Confront my peer, tell my teacher, and/or inform the responsible adult so we can all guard against malpractice within the program.*
- I know that I will be removed from the program if I commit an act of academic dishonesty (see above).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

As the parent/guardian(s) of a **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** candidate, I (we) understand that my (our) son/daughter accepts enrollment with an understanding of the diploma requirements (academic and otherwise) and the code of academic ethics which is steadfast in the North Kansas City Schools.

I give my permission for participation in all officially recognized activities in the classroom and beyond. I have read the student section listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian(s) Signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Gold Medallion Honors Diploma Application

Graduating Class \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ID \_\_\_\_\_

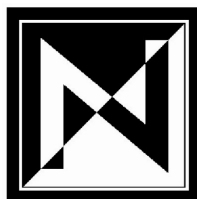
## Requirements:

- **26 units of credit including eight or more advanced courses**, Pre AP/Honors, Dual Credit, Advanced Placement are required and combined count as one advanced course.

### List advanced courses

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

- **3.2 Cumulative GPA:** GPA \_\_\_\_\_
- **Community Service, Tutoring or Mentoring** 100 hours - See the Community Service Coordinator or A+ Principal to discuss hours completed. Hours must be approved prior to completing the service. Fifty hours of A+ tutoring / mentoring are recommended as a part of the 100 hours): Hours \_\_\_\_\_
- **Perform at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile (ACT: 26+)** on an 11th grade \_\_\_\_\_ or 12<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_ national standardized academic test (ACT or SAT); must take the exam at least twice to qualify for the test-waiver process.
- **AP Seminar/ Grade of “B”** minimum (full year) Grade: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Comprehensive Portfolio** of best work, activity, reflection  
Presentation Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Appendix

## Gold Medallion Honors Diploma Planning Guide for Students and Parents

**The following pages contain forms and additional information that may be useful to candidates for the Gold Medallion Honors Diploma. Students should contact their building counselor, A+ Principal, or Gifted Resource Specialist for further help.**

# A+ Schools Student Requirements and Benefits

**Student Eligibility** – To be eligible for the financial incentives of the A+ Schools Program, a student must have:

- Completed and signed an A+ Schools Program Agreement and turned it in to the A+ office.
- Attended an A+ designated school at least 3 consecutive years prior to high school graduation.
- Graduated with at least a grade point average of two and five tenths (2.5) points on a four (4) point scale.
- Graduated with at least a 95% attendance record for a four (4) year period.
- Maintained a record of good citizenship and avoidance of unlawful use of drugs, alcohol, and acts of violence.
- Performed at least 50 hours of unpaid academic tutoring or mentoring for younger students connected to North Kansas City Schools and supervised by a district employee.
- Have achieved a score of Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I End Of Course (EOC) exam.

In accordance with Missouri State guidelines, a school district may have a process to review an appeal by a student to meet the A+ Schools Program guidelines. North Kansas City Schools provides such a process for students to submit a request for an appeal. To begin an appeal, contact your A+ Principal.

**A+ Student Benefits** – The A+ Program may provide these educational incentives subject to state funding approval.

- Tuition, general fees\*, subject to legislative appropriation paid for by the state to any of Missouri's public community colleges or public career or technical schools.\*\*
- Incentives will be made available after the student has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment. Parents must complete and send in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Parental income is **NOT** a criteria for A+ student incentive reimbursement. Failure to complete the FAFSA will result in denial of A+ benefits.
- Students may receive this incentive for a maximum of six semesters, must be enrolled as a **FULL-TIME** student, and maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale at the institution. Students are eligible to use the incentive for **UP TO FOUR** years after high school graduation.

\*Fees are limited to general fees, which all students are required to pay.

\*\*Funds become available semester following the student's graduation.

\*All funds for the A+ Schools Program are subject to yearly State budgetary appropriations.



## ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Advanced Placement Program, administered by the College Board, gives high school students an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned by taking AP Exams. With a high enough score, colleges and universities may grant credit, placement, or both. Approximately 2,900 colleges and universities award AP credit, so students should ask for a copy of their prospective college or university's AP Policy or find the information in the college's catalog. Although a student may take an AP Exam without having taken the specific course, an AP course increases the likelihood of success. Students in the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma Program** are encouraged to consult their counselor regarding AP courses offered, costs, or other details.

### 2025 AP EXAM SCHEDULE

Week 1	Morning 8 a.m. Local Time	Afternoon 12 p.m. Local Time
<b>Monday, May 5, 2025</b>	Biology Latin	European History Microeconomics
<b>Tuesday, May 6, 2025</b>	Chemistry Human Geography	United States Government and Politics
<b>Wednesday, May 7, 2025</b>	English Literature and Composition	Comparitive Government and Politics Computer Science A
<b>Thursday, May 8, 2025</b>	African American Studies Statistics	Japanese Language and Culture World History: Modern
<b>Friday, May 9, 2025</b>	Italian Language and Culture United States History	Chinese Language and Culture Macroeconomics

Week 2	Morning 8 a.m. Local Time	Afternoon 12 p.m. Local Time
<b>Monday, May 12, 2025</b>	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Music Theory Seminar
<b>Tuesday, May 13, 2025</b>	French Language and Culture PreCalculus	Environmental Science Physics 2: Algebra-Based
<b>Wednesday, May 14, 2025</b>	English Language and Composition German Language and Culture	Physics C: Mechanics
<b>Thursday, May 15, 2025</b>	Art History Spanish Language and Culture	Computer Science Principles Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
<b>Friday, May 16, 2025</b>	Physics 1: Algebra-Based Spanish Literature and Culture	Psychology



## Additional Options for High School Credit

The following options are available to students seeking the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma**. Students should consult the **Program of Studies** for detailed information regarding these options.

- High School Credit for Algebra, Geometry and Modern Language Taken in Middle School
- High School Credit for Classes Taken on a College Campus
- Dual Credit for College Classes Taken on the High School Campus
- Correspondence (up to three units)
- LAUNCH
- Northland CAPS-Northland Center for Advanced Professional Studies
- On-line College Courses and High School Credit
- Extended Learning Time (Summer/After School)
- Advanced Placement Courses Online
- Independent Study Coursework

- Business Internship
- Marketing Internship
- FACS Internship – College
- MCC – Maple Woods Early College Academy

# Gold Medallion Honors Diploma

## Four-Year Plan Prototypes Example – Student A – Fine Arts Focus

Grade Level	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	Honors English Language Arts I Lit & Comp	Honors English Language Arts II Lit & Comp	AP English Language & Composition	AP English Literature & Composition or College English
History	Honors World History	Honors U.S. History	AP U.S. Govt. Politics	AP US History AP World History AP Psychology
Mathematics	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	College Algebra
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics or other Science Elective	
PE/Health	PE/Health (may want to take Health on-line)			
AP Requirements /Electives	<i>Elective Choice</i>	<i>Elective Choice</i>	AP Seminar	AP Research (as an Elective Choice)
Practical Arts		Computer Programming I/II		Personal Finance/ <i>Elective Choice</i>
Fine Arts	Orchestra Varsity Band	Orchestra Varsity Band	Orchestra Varsity Band	Orchestra Varsity Band
Modern Language			Spanish I	Spanish II

## Example Schedule – Student B – Math/Science Focus

Grade Level	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	Honors English Language Arts I Lit & Comp	Honors English Language Arts II Lit & Comp	AP Language	AP Language, AP Literature, or College English
History	Honors World History World History	Honors U.S. History U.S. History	AP Psychology AP U.S. Gov't	AP World History AP U.S. History AP Psychology Sociology
Mathematics	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	Honors Pre-Calculus College Calculus I AP Calculus AB	College Calculus II AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics
Science	Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry	AP Physics 1 College Chemistry College Physics	AP Biology/AP Bio Lab AP Chemistry AP Physics 2 Anatomy & Physiology
PE/Health	PE/Health (may want to take Health on-line)	Personal Finance/ PE		
AP Requirements/ <i>Elective Choice</i>		<i>Elective Choice</i>	AP Seminar	<i>Elective Choice</i>
Practical Arts			Photography- Journalism	Journalism School Yearbook
Fine Arts	Art I			
Modern Language	Spanish II	College Spanish III	College Spanish IV	College Spanish V

# Gold Medallion Honors Diploma Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Requirements	Course Name	Semester Grades	Distinction Points	Additional Requirements
<b>Comm. Arts - 4</b>				
Honors English Language Arts I				
Honors English Language Arts II				
Advanced ELA Unit				
Language Arts Unit				
Fourth Advanced ELA Unit				
<b>Math - 4</b>				
Algebra I				
Honors Geometry				
Honors Algebra II				
Advanced Math Unit				
<b>Science - 3</b>				
Honors Biology				
Science Elective				
Science Elective				
<b>Social Science - 4</b>				
Honors World History				
Honors U.S. History				
AP Government or College Government				

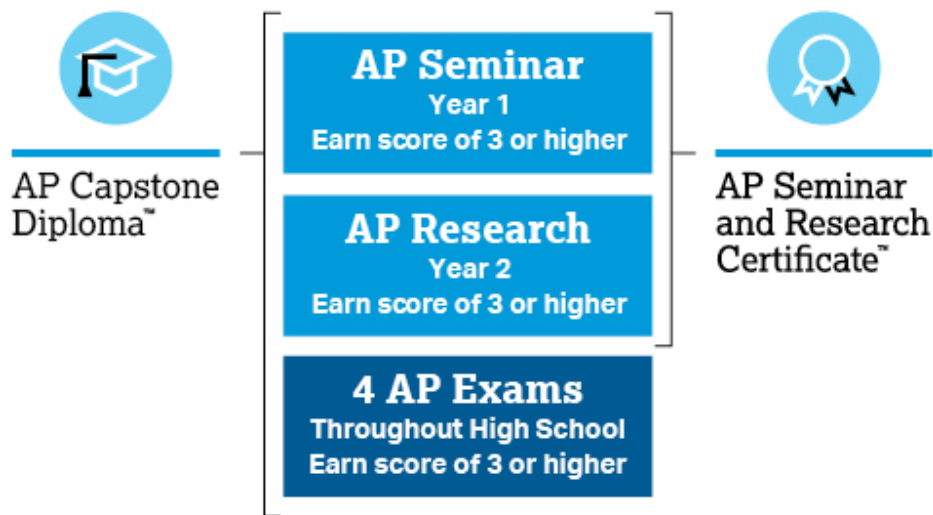
Fourth Advanced Social Science Unit				
AP Human Geography				
AP US History				
<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester Grades</b>	<b>Distinction Points</b>	<b>Additional Requirements</b>
<b>Fine Arts - 1</b>				
<b>Practical Arts - 1</b>				
<b>Physical Ed - 1</b>				
<b>Health - .5</b>				
<b>Modern Language - 2</b> (Two units of the same language)				
<b>AP Seminar - 1</b>				
<b>Personal Finance - .5</b>				
<b>Comm. Service – 100 Hrs.</b>				
<b>Comprehensive Portfolio</b>				
<b>85% National Standardized Test (ACT or SAT); must take the exam at least twice to qualify for the test-waiver process</b>				
<b>GPA 3.2</b>				
<b>8 Advanced Courses</b>				
<b>Total Credits 26</b>				

## AP Capstone™ Diploma Program

AP Capstone™ is a diploma program from the College Board. It's based on two yearlong AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.

**Students can earn the AP Capstone™ Diploma or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.**

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.



Participating in AP Capstone can help students:

- Stand out to colleges in the application process.
- Develop key academic skills they'll use in college and beyond.
- Become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.
- Earn college credit: Many colleges offer credit for qualifying scores.

Source: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone>

## AP Seminar & AP Research

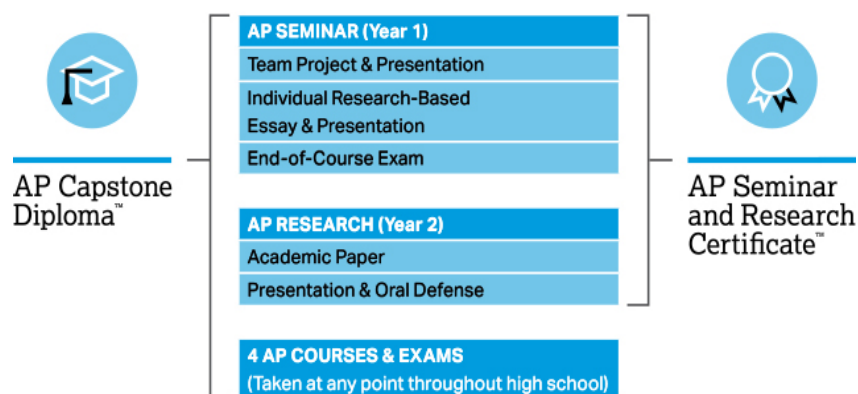
**AP Capstone™** is an innovative program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges.

Developed at the request of College Board Higher Education membership, AP Capstone™ is built on the foundation of two new AP courses – AP Seminar and AP Research – and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through other AP courses. The AP Capstone™ curriculum fosters inquiry, research, collaboration, and writing skills through the intensive investigation of topics from multiple perspectives.

The AP Capstone™ program is composed of:

- **AP Seminar:** AP Seminar provides sustained practice of investigating issues from multiple perspectives and cultivates student writing abilities so they can craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments. Students are empowered to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision and are assessed through a team project and presentation, an individual written essay and presentation, and a written exam.
- **AP Research:** In AP Research, students develop the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research to produce and defend a scholarly academic thesis. This second course in the AP Capstone experience allows students to explore deeply an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest and through this inquiry, students design, plan, and conduct a year-long mentored, research-based investigation. The course culminates in an academic thesis paper of approximately 5,000 words and a presentation, performance, or exhibition with an oral defense.
- AP courses of the student's own choosing.

Students typically take AP Seminar in the 11th grade, followed by AP Research. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma™**. This signifies their outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Alternatively, students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research will receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™** signifying their attainment of college-level academic and research skills.



Source: <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/courses-exams/ap-capstone>

## Testimonials for AP Capstone

"[Through this program] you get students turned on to higher education in a way they are not currently and they enter university with a different kind of attitude."

—*Susan Roth, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University*

"The AP Capstone program will help students to develop critical thinking skills that allow them to think independently, to analyze issues from different perspectives, to communicate clearly, and to conduct independent research. These are exactly the types of skills that they will be expected to utilize in college and the AP Capstone program will give them a terrific head start."

—*Zina L. Evans, Ph.D., Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost, University of Florida*

"The ability to guide the student toward understanding where a research method is valid needs to be explicitly taught."

—*Ellen Woods, Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Director of Thinking Matters, Stanford University*

"AP Capstone provides more of the learning students will need for success in college and beyond... We want them to come in ready to analyze issues from multiple perspectives, integrating disparate ideas and comfortable with innovation, so they can make real contributions when they get here."

—*Ken O'Donnell, Senior Director, Student Engagement, California State University, Office of the Chancellor*

Source: <https://aphighered.collegeboard.org/courses-exams/ap-capstone>



## AP Capstone™ Diploma Program Student Agreement of Understanding

As a student of the **AP Capstone™ Diploma Program**, I understand the following program components and the ethical expectations listed below, and I agree to adhere to them:

- I agree to successfully complete AP Seminar and score a minimum of a 3.
- I agree to successfully complete a minimum of four additional AP courses (student choice) and score a minimum of 3 on each exam or be enrolled in the correct number of AP courses during the senior year.
- I agree to successfully complete the required course, AP Research with the following expectations:
  - Academic Paper
    - 4500-5500 research/content specific words
    - Minimum of 20 scholarly sources and 10 credible sources
    - Proper citation format for final bibliography
    - Must be uploaded to the College Board a minimum of two days before the deadline (end of April)
  - Presentation and Oral Defense
    - 20 minutes of research/content specific and answering oral defense questions
    - Professional dress for teacher panel
    - Must be presented by College Board deadline (beginning of April)
- I understand that to receive the official AP Capstone™ Diploma issued in July by the College Board, I need to:
  - Score a 3+ in AP Seminar
  - Score a 3+ in AP Research
  - Score 3+ in four or more other AP courses
- I always will be able to sign my name to the following statement: *On my honor, I promise that I have neither given nor received help on an assignment/examination, nor will I pass on information to others. I am not submitting the work of others as my own. I will take appropriate action in the following ways to initiate investigation of a perceived violation: Confront my peer, tell my teacher, and/or inform the responsible adult so we can all guard against malpractice within the program.*
- I know that I will be removed from the program if I commit an act of academic dishonesty (see above).

---

Student Signature

---

Date

As the parent/guardian(s) of an **AP Capstone™ Diploma** candidate, I (we) understand that my (our) son/daughter accepts enrollment with an understanding of the diploma requirements (academic and otherwise) and the code of academic ethics which is steadfast in the North Kansas City Schools.

I give my permission for participation in all officially recognized activities in the classroom and beyond. I have read the student section listed above.

---

Parent/Guardian(s) Signature(s)

---

Date