

Shepherd Hill Regional High School

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Shepherd Hill Regional High School encourages students to pursue challenging courses and to strive to achieve their academic potential. Advanced Placement (AP) courses afford students the opportunity to experience the rigor and rewards of college-level coursework. A student who enrolls in and pursues AP courses with purpose and determination will receive an enriching experience, as well as excellent preparation for post-secondary education.

Although the Shepherd Hill administration and guidance departments believe strongly in the value of AP courses, we offer the following guidelines and conditions for enrollment in these courses, as well as an explanation for them:

Mandatory requirements:

1. Students will not be scheduled for any AP courses until this form is signed by the student and a guardian and returned to the student's guidance counselor.
2. **Students will not be allowed to drop an AP course after May 1, 2026.**
3. Students enrolled in each AP course are required to pay for and take the national AP exam. The current fee for an AP exam is \$99.00, however, that cost could increase per the rate College Board sets for the upcoming school year. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch can receive a reduction in cost. (Families must apply for free/reduced lunch and be deemed eligible.) **AP Exam fees are due by October 30, 2026.** Do not pay until next year.
 - a. **The AP Exam is an important part of the AP experience. The test and the preparation leading up to the test simulate the experience of college exams. Students who refuse or fail to take the national AP exam will incur a substantial negative impact to their Term 4 and final grades, as they will receive a zero as their final exam grade.**
4. Parents of students who select 3 or more AP courses in a given year must meet with a guidance counselor before the student's selections will be approved.

Important Guidelines:

1. Students will be assigned "summer work." These assignments will be graded and included in the calculation of the Term 1 grade. It is very important that students complete this work, as failure to do so will not constitute a reason to drop the course.
2. Teachers will be available for consultation during the summer for students who require assistance. Direct contact between the AP teacher and student is strongly recommended if a problem arises or additional support is needed.

"... committed to excellence with pride and unity."

I understand that Advanced Placement courses are very rigorous. In order to be successful in an AP course, a student will have to devote significant time for completion of assignments and studying. Taking more than one AP course is particularly challenging and should not be undertaken without serious consideration. Further, I understand that I should consult a guidance counselor if I have any reservations, as students **will not be allowed to “drop” AP courses after May 1, 2026.**

AP Course(s) I have enrolled in for the upcoming school year are circled:

AP Biology	AP Environmental Science
AP Calculus AB	AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
AP Calculus BC	AP Physics C: Mechanics
AP Chemistry	AP Precalculus
AP Computer Science A	AP Research (year 2 of AP Capstone)
AP Computer Science Principles	AP Seminar (year 1 of AP Capstone)
AP English Language	AP Spanish
AP English Literature	AP Statistics
AP European History	AP United States History

Enrolling in an AP Course is a collaborative effort involving the student, the parent/guardian and the school. By signing below, you are aware of the above opportunities and requirements associated with committing to an AP course.

I, _____ agree to follow all the requirements listed in this form.
Student Name (Print Name)

Student: _____
Signature Date

Parent/Guardian: _____
Signature Date

*Once course requests are compiled (after students meet with their guidance counselors) the Shepherd Hill administration and guidance department begin to create a "master schedule" that will allow us to offer enough sections of each class to provide appropriate class sizes. The summer is spent ensuring that we have the necessary teachers in place to accomplish this, sometimes hiring or reassigning teachers based on the calculations. Once this master schedule is in place and our staff decisions are finalized, it is nearly impossible to accommodate significant numbers of students who change their mind or ask to make changes to the requests they made in the spring. As a school, we must strive to make these decisions in a consistent fashion, giving one student the same treatment and consideration we would give another. If we were to approve several of these requests, the balance and class sizes would skew to very large and very small. When class sizes are skewed, the quality of the class is negatively impacted. For this reason, we are unable to accommodate most requests for schedule changes after the master schedule has been finalized.