



The Academic Blueprint for Advanced Credit

A Complete Field Guide to Navigating AP & Ivy Tech Dual Credit at Cascade High School

Student Services Reference Document

Two Distinct Paths to College Credit

Diagram 1	Diagram 2
 Scope & Provider State-level scope; provided by Ivy Tech Community College. Taught by professors or CHS teachers.	 Scope & Provider National scope; provided by the College Board. Taught by College Board-trained CHS teachers.
The Credit Engine College credit is guaranteed by earning a course grade of "C" or higher.	The Credit Engine College credit depends entirely on a single national exam score (3, 4, or 5).
High School GPA Impact Standard grading (Unweighted).	High School GPA Impact Most rigorous courses at CHS (Weighted).

The Financial Math: Ivy Tech ROI

The Cascade Cost

The University Equivalent

\$537 per class

\$6,228

Total family cost is textbooks only, ranging from \$6 to \$199

\$179 per credit hour x 3 hours

Ball State University averages \$346 per credit hour for the equivalent workload.

The Capstone Opportunity: CHS offers 6 'Professor on Loan' senior classes (3 per semester). This provides an 18-credit hour opportunity, yielding a total financial savings of nearly \$3,222.

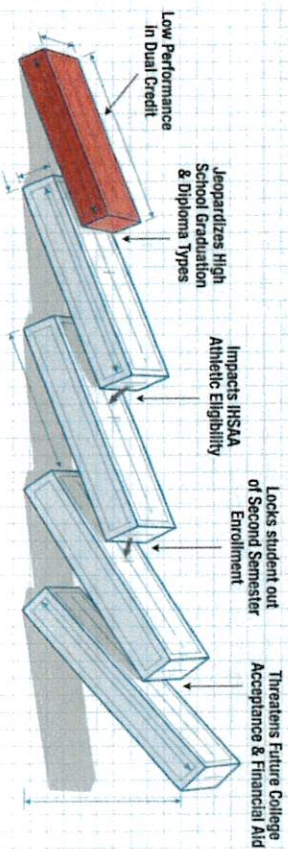
Time Management: The Collegiate Schedule

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
Active Class Blocks (7:55 AM - 10:25 AM) Periods 1-3. Semester 1 (Aug 24-Dec 14) & Semester 2 (Jan 11-May 3).				
The SLC Gap (Period 4) Students must stay on campus for SLC if they have a 4th-period class.				

Off-Day Optimization Checklist

- ☒ College applications & scholarships
- ☒ Study groups
- ☒ Course preparation
- ☒ Volunteering or job shadowing

The Ripple Effect of Low Performance



THE GOLDEN RULE: ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL. No scheduling doctor appointments or college visits during these blocks.

Paradigm Shift: High School vs. College Coursework

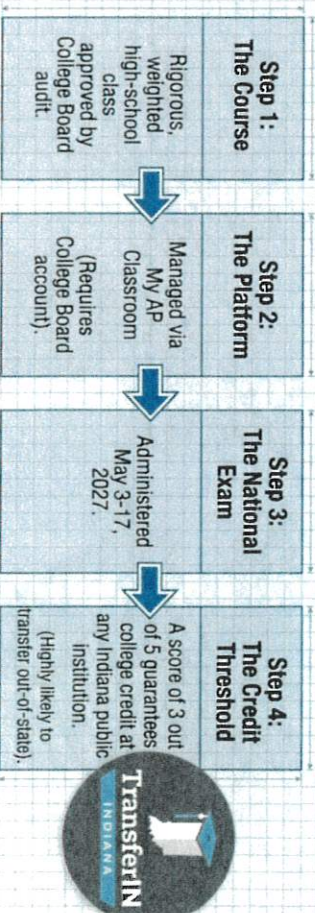
High School Rules		College Realities
Pacing & Deliverables	Daily homework assignments and constant grading.	Strictly syllabus-driven. Fewer daily assignments; heavy reliance on major papers, presentations, and strict due dates.
Grading Platforms	Constant monitoring via PowerSchool.	Official grades live in Ivy Tech Canvas. PowerSchool receives updates only every nine weeks.
Graduation Requirements	Senior English and Government/Economics are mandatory for high school graduation—failure is not an option.	

The Dual Credit Faculty Directory

Ivy Tech Professors on Loan (Seniors Only)	CHS Daily Dual Credit Teachers (Meets Everyday)
- Prof. Staublin (Eng 111, 206) - Prof. Kirchgassner (Politics 101) - Prof. Marshall (Comm 101) - Prof. Runkles (Psych 101) - Economics 101 (TBA)	- Mr. Alspaugh (Algebra/Trig) - Mrs. Schimel (Anatomy) - Mrs. Branz (Chemistry) - Mrs. Searcy (Agriculture) - Mr. Eldridge (PTLW Engineering) - Mr. Nelson (Education) - Mrs. Moeller (Spanish III/IV)

Ivy Tech Connection Coach: Mrs. Kaylin Linder (klinder14@ivytech.edu)

Advanced Placement: The Exam-Driven Engine



The Long-Term Metric: Participation alone is linked to college completion; high scorers are statistically more likely to earn a degree.

The Shared Responsibility Matrix

The Student Contract

- ☒ Complete preceding Honors courses.
- ☒ Commit to ~5 additional hours of work per week per AP class.
- ☒ Self-advocate and utilize morning help.
- ☒ Maintain zero tolerance for procrastination.

The Parent Contract

- ☒ Anticipate significantly higher homework/reading loads.
- ☒ Accept that the student may not earn an "A".
- ☒ Ensure the student takes every national exam for enrolled courses.

The Diploma Caveat: Students must maintain a 'C-' or higher to qualify for the Academic Honors Diploma (AHD), Technical Honors Diploma (THD), or Honors Seal Enrollment.

AP Exam Costs & The "\$40 Caveat"

Base Costs

The State of Indiana pays for two AP tests per student (excluding MicroEconomics) and covers all exams for free/reduced lunch students. (Standard fee historically ~\$99/exam).

The Timeline

Ordering forms are sent home after Fall Break.

The Penalty Trigger

IF a student registers in October -> AND the student "No Shows" the exam or drops a year-long class -> THEN a \$40 penalty fee is charged per exam.

Note: Dropping an AP class after semester one triggers this fee.

Cascade AP Faculty & Testing Timeline

Humanities & Social Sciences

- AP US History (Mr. Edwards)
- AP Language (Mrs. Gee)
- AP Government (Mr. Guillion)
- AP Literature (Ms. Paradise)
- AP MicroEconomics (Mr. Edwards)

STEM

- AP Calculus AB/BC (Mr. Alspaugh)
- AP Chemistry (Mrs. Branz)
- AP Environmental (Mrs. Reed)

The Finish Line:

MAY
3-17, 2027

All AP test dates and times are strictly set by the College Board. The testing window is May 3-17, 2027.

Administrative Protocols & Communication

Absence Protocol

- **Student Action:** Email the professor directly.
- **Parent Action:** Inform Mrs. Creek at the high school. (Check specific attendance policies for each syllabus).

Questions & Navigation

- **Email:** mbright@mcsc.k12.in.us or cdubois@mcsc.k12.in.us
- **Call:** Mrs. Bright at 317-539-9217 or Mr. DuBois at 317-539-9218
- **In-Person:** Stop by the Student Services Office.

Common Next Steps

Review transcripts (TransferIN), verify IHSAA eligibility impacts with Student Services, and finalize AP ordering forms in October.

