



## **WHAT ARE AP CLASSES?**

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM® (AP®) COURSES ARE COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES OFFERED IN HIGH SCHOOL.**

**AP COURSES REFLECT WHAT IS TAUGHT IN TOP INTRODUCTORY COLLEGE COURSES.**

**AT THE END OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS TAKE AP EXAMS—STANDARDIZED EXAMS THAT MEASURE HOW WELL STUDENTS HAVE MASTERED COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSEWORK.**

**STUDENTS WHO DO WELL ON AP EXAMS CAN EARN CREDIT AND/OR PLACEMENT INTO ADVANCED COURSES IN COLLEGE.**

---

## WHY AP?

---

**AP STUDENTS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH AVERAGE SCORES OF 1 OR 2, ARE MORE LIKELY TO ENROLL IN A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE COMPARED TO ACADEMICALLY SIMILAR STUDENTS WHO DID NOT TAKE AN AP COURSE IN HIGH SCHOOL.**

**“WE LOOK FAVORABLY ON STUDENTS WHO HAVE TAKEN AP COURSES. THE PRESENCE OF AP COURSES IS A SIGN THAT A STUDENT HAS CHOSEN TO CHALLENGE HIM/HERSELF.”**  
—ADMISSION OFFICER

AP courses demand more of students than regular honors courses.

They are fast-paced and cover more material than a general education course.

AP teachers teach their students to think critically, analyze, synthesize facts, and weigh data.

Students are also taught how to weigh competing perspectives and write clearly and persuasively.

# BENEFITS OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES

Research shows that when students are given **access to advanced coursework** opportunities, they:

- Work harder.
- Engage more in school.
- Have fewer absences/suspensions.
- Graduate at higher rates.

“The AP credits I received allowed me to skip straight to higher-level, more demanding courses in my major.”

**Tyler V.,  
University of  
Washington**

Research shows that when **students are enrolled in an AP class**, they:

- Are more likely to stay in college
  - Do well in college courses
  - Graduate in 4 years with a degree
-

---

## BENEFITS OF AP CLASSES CONTINUED:



- **Allow your students to see the rigor of college level work before entering college.**
- **Help to fine tune critical thinking, time management, and study skills.**
- **Helps your student stand out on a college application.**



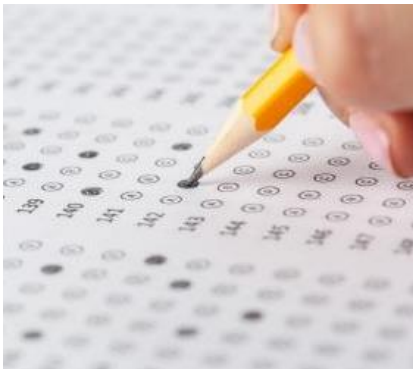
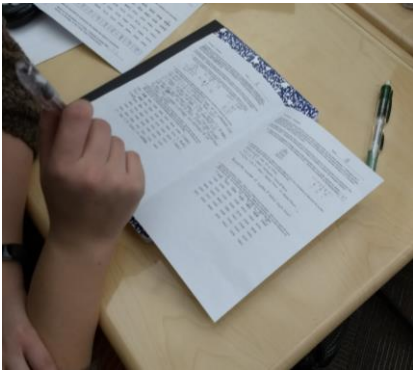
---

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT GRADING

The AP grade scale ranges from 1 to 5:

## Grade

5	Extremely well qualified
4	Well qualified
3	Qualified
2	Possibly qualified
1	No recommendation



---

# **COST OF AP EXAMS**

**Estimated Exam Cost for  
May 2026**

**Free for Houston County  
students**

**Current Cost for Most  
Districts-\$99**

**Fee reductions for free and  
reduced lunch students**

---



---

## THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU COMMIT TO AN AP COURSE...

- **Deciding on which and how many AP courses a student should take is a team effort that includes students, parents, and teachers.**
- **AP classes are yearlong commitments. At advisement you will sign a document that states you cannot be removed from a class for any reason.**
- **Data such as class grades and PSAT scores can be a great indicator of potential success but are not the only factors to consider.**
- **Motivation, time management, and determination are factors that while hard to measure, can drastically affect success in AP classes as well as college.**



---

# AP EXAMS

Standardized exams  
that measure how well  
students have mastered  
the content and skills  
of a specific AP course

Administered by  
schools worldwide  
every year in the spring

This year exams will be  
digital and hybrid.

Most AP Exams are 2–  
3 hours long

The first part of the  
exam usually consists  
of multiple-choice  
questions

The second part of the  
exam usually consists  
of free-response  
questions

Created and scored by  
teams of AP teachers  
and college professors

---



---

# DUAL ENROLLMENT OR ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Which is the best choice for you?



---

# DUAL ENROLLMENT

OFFERED THROUGH  
DIFFERENT

## 1. LOCAL COLLEGES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

- Some are offered at PHS
- Others offered at the college campus

## 2. SEMESTER-LONG CLASSES

- Taught semester/quarter style
- Curriculum material may differ by college

## 3. TRANSFER CREDIT

- Pass the class, receive credit
- Transfer credit may vary by college

## 4. TEACHER SUPPORT

- True college experience
-

---

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT

## 1. YEAR-LONG CLASSES

- Material is standardized across the nation

## 2. COLLEGE CREDIT

- AP exam score will determine credit
- Acceptable scores are posted on College Board website for each college and vary by school

## 3. RIGOROUS

- Large breadth of material
- Very in depth material

## 4. TEACHER SUPPORT

- Taught by PHS teachers
-

# CONCLUSION

**EACH STUDENT IS UNIQUE**

## **CONSIDER YOUR FUTURE – COLLEGE MAJOR AND CAREER**

- If it is required for your career and major → recommend the AP option to gain a year-long foundation
- If you are passionate and want to learn as much about it as possible → recommend the AP option
- If it is strictly a pre-requisite credit → recommend the DE option to complete the course as quickly as possible
- If you are planning to complete a degree at the partnering college → recommend the DE to avoid transfer credits

---

# AP Registration Process/Timeline

Registration forms and one-page class descriptions will be available tomorrow in the commons.

+ Student/parents review, complete, and sign the registration form and return it to the basket in the counselors' office on or before February 6th.

Students applying for one or two courses with appropriate pre-requisites will be pre-registered for the course(s).

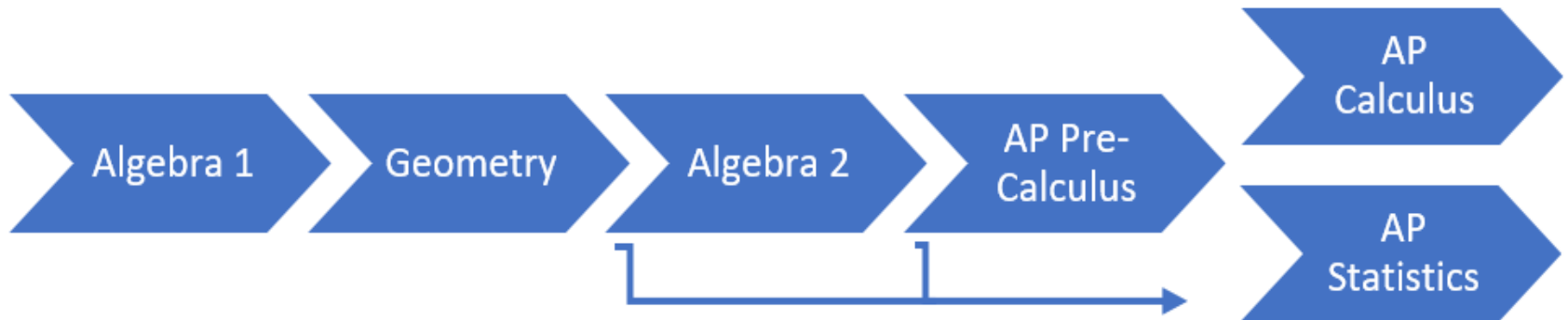
Students will be notified of classes that will not make due to lack of interest and advised of recommendations from the AP Committee if there is an academic concern.

---

---

# MATH SEQUENCE

AP Statistics	AP Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus
10th*, 11th or 12th grade	11th or 12th grade	12th grade



---

# AP STATISTICS

Taught by Tiffany Frank

- 10th\*, 11th, & 12th graders
- Main topics:
  - Describing & Analyzing Data, Probability, Sampling & Experimental Design, & Inference
- Great gateway to other AP courses
- A hidden skill is writing. The interpretation of our work is just as important as the computation of our work.



---

# AP PRECALCULUS

Taught by Joi Wright

- 11th and 12th graders who have completed Alg 2
  - Main topics:
    - Polynomial Functions
    - Rational Functions
    - Exponential Functions
    - Trigonometric Functions
    - Polar Functions
  - Will significantly prepare students for AP Calculus or college CALC I
-

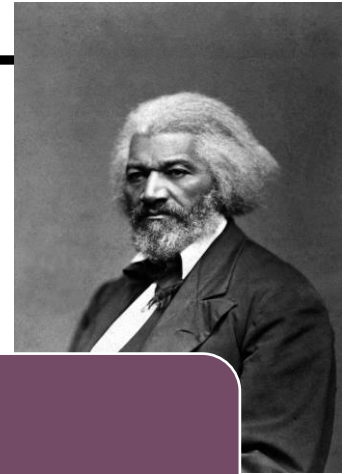
---

# AP CALCULUS

Taught by Joi Wright

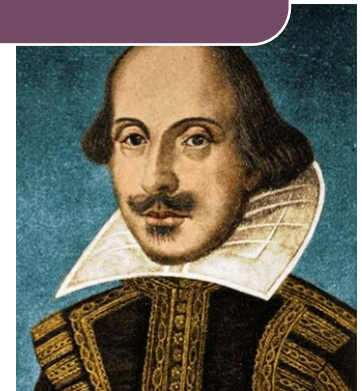
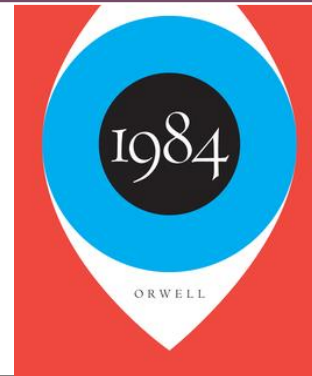
- 12th graders who have completed Precalc
- Main topics:
  - Limits
  - Derivatives
  - Integration
- Covers all of college level CALC I and half of CALC II

# ENGLISH



11th – AP English Language and Composition (AP Lang)

12th – AP English Literature and Composition (AP Lit)



---

# AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Currently taught by Tiffany Jackson

- Open to juniors who have taken ninth and tenth grade English

Main Topics:

- Evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing
- Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments.
- Students read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts.
- Will significantly prepare students for any college writing in any discipline.
- Best compared to English 1101



---

Currently taught by Susie Custer

- Open to seniors who have taken 9th-11th grade literature
  - Main Topics:
    - Focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama)
    - Students engage in close reading and critical analysis
    - Writing assignments include expository and analytical essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.
    - Best compared to English 1102
- 

## AP ENGLISH LITERATURE





# SCIENCE

- AP BIOLOGY
- AP CHEMISTRY
- AP COMPUTER SCIENCE
- AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- AP PHYSICS





---

# AP BIOLOGY



- Open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors (sophomores must concurrently take Honors Chemistry)
  - Requirements: One year of Biology, One year of Chemistry (or concurrent), Strong A or B in both courses
  - High interest in Biology-related field in college (nursing, pre-med, biotechnology, biomedical engineering, biological research)
  - The key to success in AP Biology is
    - a **STRONG** work ethic
    - Positive attitude
    - Motivated
    - Willing to study/read for one hour **DAILY** and work hard (even when frustrated)
-



---

# AP CHEMISTRY



- Strong interest in the following fields: Engineering, Pre-Med/Vet, Biology, Agriculture, Biochemical/Biotech Research
  - Requirement: One year of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry, Strong A or B. Strong math skills
  - Strong work ethic
  - Willing to work a minimum of one hour per day outside of class
  - Willing to work hard, even when frustrated
  - Willing to seek help
  - Ability to work and think independently
  - Many Universities teach their freshman Chemistry courses assuming that students have taken AP Chemistry
-

---

# AP COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will:

- Understand what it means to program
  - Develop a strong foundation in coding & in testing their work
  - Solve and create solutions to problems using the Java programming language
- 
- While taking other computer classes could be helpful, you do not **need to**. You don't even need to be "good" with computers. Simply having a good work ethic and a willingness to ask for help is all that is required.
  - At the end of the course, students will not only understand what options are available in the field but be prepared to learn other programming languages with ease.

This class is a **great opportunity** to get an advantage on engineering jobs and/or see if programming is a potential fit for you!

---

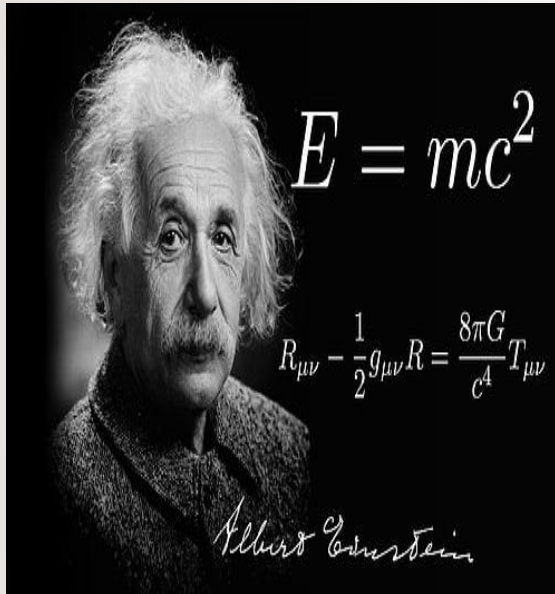
---

# AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

- Requirements: One year of Biology, One year of Chemistry (or concurrent), Strong A or B in both courses
  - Open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors (sophomores must concurrently take Honors Chemistry)
  - High interest in Environmental Science field in college: Environmental Engineering, Forestry, Natural Resources and Conservation, Sustainable Agriculture, etc.
  - Students will learn about natural and human-made environmental problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them.
  - It's an interdisciplinary course that embraces topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, chemistry, geography, and social sciences.
  - Recommendations:
    - STRONG work ethic
    - PROJECT-BASED course
    - Highly motivated outside the classroom
-

---

## AP PHYSICS



- Open to Juniors and Seniors (should have finished Chemistry)
- Strong interest in Engineering, Pre-Med
- Requirement: Strong math skills
- Strong work ethic
- Willing to work a minimum of one hour per day outside of class
- Willing to attack a challenge
- Willing to seek help
- Self-motivated
- Ability to think/work independently
- Many Universities teach their Physics I courses assuming that students have taken AP Physics

A background image of the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island, with the New York City skyline visible in the distance under a cloudy sky. The statue is green and stands on a stone pedestal. The city skyline includes several tall buildings, with the Freedom Tower being prominent. The water of the harbor is in the foreground.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

- AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (9th)
- AP WORLD HISTORY (10th)
- AP UNITED STATES HISTORY (11th)
- AP MACROECONOMICS (12th)

---

# AP Human Geography

Focus: spatial patterns, human systems, geographic analysis of the modern world

**should you take this course?**

**Are you...**

- looking for GPA impacts?
- interested in environmental sciences?
- curious about current affairs in the world?
- want to learn how and why the world works?
- looking for a challenge?
- wanting to lay the groundwork for AP World?

- strong intro to AP-level work
  - explains global issues: migration, urban growth, inequality, climate impacts, and global politics
  - builds map literacy, data interpretation, spatial thinking, and analytical reasoning
  - good for students interested in: urban planning, business, public health, environmental science, international relations
  - focuses on applying concepts, patterns, and models
  - encourages cultural understanding and awareness
-



# AP WORLD HISTORY

**FOCUS-** High Interest in world history, global politics, economics, religion, and overall global interactions from 1200 CE- present

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reading and Analytical Skills
- Formal Writing skills
- Exemplary organizational skills
- Work Ethic / Willingness to work and participate

Foundational  
skills carry to  
APUSH class  
and national  
exam!



---

# AP U.S. History

1491 - Present

**Focus:** historical thinking, evidence-based writing, connecting American history to today's world

Offered to Juniors to fulfill federal U.S. History graduation requirements

- Field Trips
- Debates
- Project-based learning
- Civic Engagements
- teacher-led virtual study groups

Key Themes focused on throughout American History:

American & National Identity  
Politics & Power  
Work, Exchange, & Technology  
Culture & Society  
Migration & Settlements  
Geography & Environment  
America in the World

- Explore U.S. History through the use of college-level historical thinking skills through hands-on assignments and case studies
  - Foundational knowledge & skills for history, political science, law, education, journalism, and public policy/government majors
  - Deep understanding of current events through historical observations
  - Favorable addition to your high school transcript!
-

# **AP Macroeconomics**

**\*\*For more information go to room 102\*\***

- **A serious interest and appreciation for economics and a desire to learn how our economy functions both domestically and internationally**
- **Willingness to read college level textbooks**
- **Strong math skills- ability to read, interpret and draw graphs**
- **A's and B's in previous history and math courses**
- **Willing to study DAILY in order to perform well on the AP Macro exam**
- **Accounts for a 200 Level College Course**

DR. DOOLEY

# ELECTIVES

- AP PSYCHOLOGY (11th-12th)
- AP ART & DESIGN (11th-12th)



# AP PSYCHOLOGY- DR. HERBERT

## Learning Objectives

- Learning foundational concepts that detail how and why people think and behave the way they do.
- Connecting psychological concepts and theories to real-life scenarios
- Understanding and interpreting data
- Analyzing research studies in psychology and science practices

## Students will need:

- strong writing/math-statistic skills
- open-mindedness
- work ethic and motivation

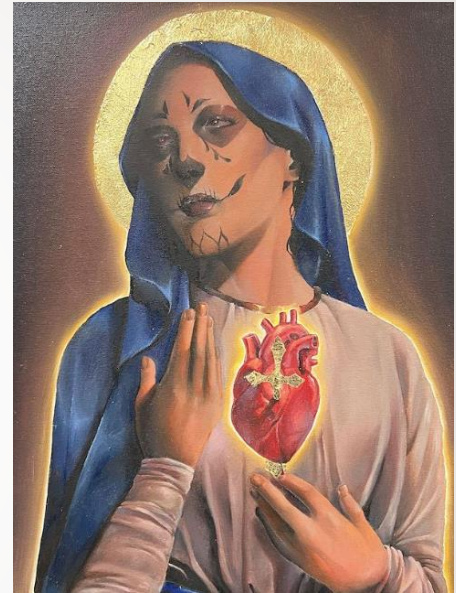
**\*Class is applicable to all majors and degrees ( esp. medical/mental health/criminology)**



---

# AP ART & DESIGN

- **Students will:**
  - **Develop an inquiry based upon interest and develop an art portfolio.**
  - **Create 10 pieces of original work throughout the school year.**
  - **Write and explain art pieces and how they relate to the overall inquiry.**
- **Students will be able to experiment with different mediums and show synthesis through their work.**
- **Reserved for 11th-12th grade art students**
- **Students should complete at least two years of art before attempting the course. Must show a high skill in art.**
- **Must have a willingness to work hard in school and at home on art assignments – pieces are due every two weeks.**





---

A group of diverse college graduates wearing black caps and gowns, smiling and holding white diplomas. The image is slightly blurred and has a dark overlay. A white horizontal line is at the top, and another is at the bottom.

# Straight From the Student's Mouth

---

# Q&A

You have

## Questions

We have

## Answers



---

# DEADLINE TO TURN IN AP PAPERWORK FOR SCHEDULING

