

Welcome

Parents of First Time AP Takers



Agenda

- Purpose and expectations of Advanced Placement (AP) classes
- Student Health and Balance
- Growing Concerns
- Accessing Support
- Level Changes
- Next Steps

Purpose

- First-hand look at what a college-level class is like.
- Students will be challenged - academically, personally, and socially.
- Become better-prepared for college in terms of:
 - workload - time management
 - becoming independent learners
 - problem solving
 - improving reading, writing and thinking skills

Expectations

- Reading, writing, and/or solving demanding, college-level work/problems
- An hour of homework on average per night, per class
- Complete all work expected of each course, on time
- School work is a priority
- Work hard, be consistent, and **seek help!**

Healthy Balance

- Not necessary to take the most rigorous classes every year.
- Should take AP classes in areas that most interest student -
Is student passionate about the subject area?
- Keep in mind other rigorous classes that are not AP, but are just as demanding - Pre-calculus, AS Physics, AS English III, level IV of languages.
- Keep in mind extra-curricular activities and the amount of hours that are expected for each activity.
- Sleep is not a luxury, it is vital to brain function (9 hours needed, nightly.)

Growing Concerns

- Increased levels of stress and anxiety due to unrealistic expectations
- Lack of sleep (need at least 9 hours, nightly.)
- Integrity violations
- Burn-out
- Many students who were not recommended for AP, Honors, or higher level courses (are on waivers to get into these courses) are struggling
- Students earning lower grades than they are accustomed to and this is difficult for them and their parents

What Can Students DO?

- Take classes in areas that most interest them - student should be passionate, excited about the subject area!
- Complete summer homework
- Attend school/classes everyday
- Take notes in class and at home and review/summarize notes and what they are learning
- Communicate with teachers, counselors and parents about what they are learning and any challenges they may have
- Work hard, be consistent, and seek help!

Support Available

- Meet with teachers
 - Find out when teachers are available and seek them out!
- After School Tutoring in Library
 - Monday/ Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Thursday
- Writing Center:
 - Get one-on-one help with writing
 - Zero period and after school
- Let counselors know what is going on
- Visit Star Vista for Non-Academic Counseling
- Support Programs:
 - AVID
 - The Computer Academy

How Can Parents Help?

- Encourage and praise your student for their successes.
- Push your child to seek help - work with their teachers, attend after school tutoring, work with peers (study groups)
- Stay in touch: contact teachers and counselor with concerns and questions
- Create time and space for your child to study!!
- Keep them in school every day

Level Changes

- Level changes can only occur 3 times during the year:
 - 1) first 2 weeks of the semester (8/18-9/1/15);
 - 2) last week of quarter 1 through first week of quarter 2 (10/12-10/23/15);
 - 3) last week of semester 1 through first week of semester 2 (12/14/15-1/8/16)
- No guarantee that if student wants to change levels that request can be accommodated (schedule conflicts and/or full classes)

Dropping a course

- Prior to dropping an AP course, there must be a meeting with student, parent(s), counselor, and AVP.
- Courses dropped before the 6th week will not appear on a student's transcript. To replace the dropped course, students can choose to be a teacher's aide (TA) or student clerk.
- If the course is dropped after the 6th week of the semester, it will be appear on the transcript and students will earn a WP (withdraw pass) or WF (withdraw fail - this affects GPA.). Only a TA or student clerk class may be added to replace the dropped course.

Repeating a Course

- If a D or F is earned in the course, colleges will not count the course.
- It is difficult to repeat an AP course as few programs or schools offer AP courses.
- If a similar course is available, students can repeat the course, but must wait until the start of a new semester or summer.

The Goal

- We want your child to learn as much as possible and be successful.
- We want them to work hard.
- We want to support them.
- **HOWEVER**, we do not want them to fail a course or put themselves in an unhealthy situation.

Next Steps

- Make a final decision on ALL course selections by May 22, 2015. No course changes will be allowed after this date.
- Ensure that student and parent have signed and returned the AP Disclosure by May 22, 2015 to the guidance office. Students without AP disclosures will be dropped from AP classes.
- Get summer homework for all courses - visit M-A website for summer homework information.