

## AP Expo First Timers handout

# AP FOR FIRST-TIMERS

### WHAT IS AP?

• *National Curriculum and Test*: 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 course work.

- Students who do well on AP Exams can earn credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.

You might think that AP classes are tough, and you might be right. But that doesn't mean that you aren't up to the task. If you are willing to work hard, you'll find that the qualities you use in other parts of your life can help you achieve your goals. AP brings the college experience to your high school with the opportunity to earn college credit at thousands of universities. More students are ready for AP than you'd think. Roll up your sleeves and find out what AP can do for you!

### WHY AP?

• Deciding to take an AP course lets colleges and universities know that you have what it takes to succeed in an undergraduate environment. When admissions officers see "AP" on your transcript, they know that what you experienced in a particular class has prepared you well for the challenges of college. Taking AP is a sign that you're up for the most rigorous classes your high school has to offer.

- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions.
- Colleges rank "Grades in college prep courses" and "Strength of curriculum" as the **top 2 factors** in the admission decision. Source: *2009 State of College Admission*, NACAC
- College credit earned through AP Exams allows students to move into upper-level college courses sooner, pursue a double major, and gain time to study and travel abroad.

### **Motivation Matters:**

- You show determination when you do the things that matter to you.
- Think about when you've learned or accomplished something you're really passionate about.
- You practice until you get it right.
- You try harder when it's not easy the first time.
- The effort pays off and you feel a huge sense of accomplishment when you see how much you can do when you try.
- That is the kind of commitment that is sought out and rewarded in AP classes, and will help you succeed when you move beyond high school.

### How can you help your child succeed in AP classes?

- **A**sk questions about their day and ask them to explain what they are learning in each class.
- **S**chedule time for about 1 ½ hours of homework per night (varies by AP class), & give your child *Space* to complete it.
- **P**raise and reward your child when it's deserved.
- **I**mpose healthy eating habits, and make sure they get enough sleep every night.
- **R**ead, read, read. Make sure they read every night!
- **E**ncourage them to attend extra-help sessions.

~~~~All information above this point is directly from College Board unless otherwise indicated~~~~

### From SCHS Teachers: Reasons to take AP

- Taking an AP course builds the reading, writing, and thinking skills you'll need throughout your college years.
- You give your mind a rigorous workout while polishing up your time management and study skills.
- You also get better at handling challenging issues and problems, with the support of your AP teachers.
- AP courses let you know what to expect during the next phase of your educational journey, and help you build the confidence to succeed
- Some college students earn bad grades & drop out their first year because they weren't prepared for the level of independent work, note-taking, reading, etc. Taking APs will help you avoid that scenario!

**Pro Tip:** If there is a recommended or pre-requisite class, take it!

- *Honors classes familiarize you with the content and more importantly **the SKILLS** necessary for AP*
- *example: Take Honors Social Studies (or be on an Honors contract) before AP World or take Honors English before AP Lang*

### **AP COURSES OFFERED AT SCOTT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

- |                                             |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| • <i>Spanish Language</i>                   | • <i>English Literature</i>            |
| • <i>French Language</i>                    | • <i>Psychology</i>                    |
| • <i>Japanese Language</i>                  | • <i>World History</i>                 |
| • <i>Calculus AB</i>                        | • <i>United States History</i>         |
| • <i>Statistics</i>                         | • <i>American Gov't &amp; Politics</i> |
| • <i>Biology</i>                            |                                        |
| • <i>Physics</i>                            |                                        |
| • <i>English Language &amp; Composition</i> |                                        |

### **AM I READY FOR AP?**

#### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER:**

- *My grades in honors-level classes*
- *Reading Comprehension*
- *Writing Skills*
- *Test scores-- PSAT, SBAC, MAP Testing*
- ***My Time Management Skills***
- *How many other Honors/AP classes am I taking?*
- *My extra-curricular involvement*
- *Is this a subject I am passionate about?*
- *Can I handle a low score?*
- *Can I take constructive criticism, process it, and improve for next time?*
- *How do I handle stress & anxiety?*
- *Can I take personal responsibility for my success?*
- *Am I willing to do the work?*
- *Do my current teachers think I am ready?*

### **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

- *The College Board website has full course descriptions for every AP class, testimonials, etc.*
- *Many AP teachers host information sessions during CARD time prior to scheduling. Feel free to approach any AP teacher for more information!*
- *Your current teachers and counselor can help you decide if you are ready for AP.*