An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

James F. Byrnes Freshman Academy and James F. Byrnes High School
2019-2020
Welcome!

Spartanburg School District Five is committed to every student’s success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.
Our AP® Courses

- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **Mathematics:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Environmental Science
- **History/Social Sciences:** Human Geography (at BFA/9th gr), Macroeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History
- **Arts:** Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio
INFO YOU NEED:

• What are Advanced Placement courses?

• The Benefits of AP

• What's it REALLY like to take AP? Student and Teacher Perspective(s)

• Taking AP Exams

• Next Steps
What are Advanced Placement® courses?
Advanced Placement ®: The Basics

• AP® courses are college-level courses offered in high school.

• Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses.

• Students take AP Exams at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work.

• A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.
Courses at BFA and BHS

English Language
English Literature
Calculus AB
Calculus BC*
Statistics*
Biology
Environmental Science*

US History

Government*
Macroeconomics*
AP®: The Benefits
AP®: The Benefits

• Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills.

• Taking AP is valued in the college admission process.

• AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences.

• Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college.
AP courses are often the most interesting and fulfilling courses a student takes in high school.

AP teachers are among the most prepared, dedicated, and inspiring teachers at their schools.

Students develop confidence, and learn the study habits and time management skills essential for success in college.
• 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student’s AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions.*

• Colleges rank grades and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision.

• AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers.

* Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007
Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success.

Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers.*

*2009, The College Board, “The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"
Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.*

*Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.

For example, AP English Literature students had four-year college graduation rates that were 62% higher than students that had not taken AP English Literature.

*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experience* The College Board, 2008
31% of colleges and universities consider a student’s AP experience when making decisions about which students will receive scholarships.
AP® Expands Students’ Options

When students earn college credit through AP Exams, their options and opportunities expand:

• Move to upper-level college courses sooner
• Pursue a double major
• Gain time to study and travel abroad
AP courses challenge students to work and participate at a higher level:

- Opportunities to explore topics in depth
- More time in and out of the classroom required to complete assignments and projects
- High expectations for critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evidence, multiple perspectives, and clear written and verbal communications
What is it like to take AP®?
# AP® Myths & Realities

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<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Reality</th>
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<tr>
<td>AP courses are for students who always get good grades.</td>
<td>AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.</td>
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<td>AP courses are too stressful.</td>
<td>It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.</td>
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<td>I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.</td>
<td>You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.</td>
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<td>Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.</td>
<td>Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.</td>
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<td>I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.</td>
<td>If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.</td>
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AP courses challenge students to work and participate at a higher level:

- Classes tend to be fast-paced and cover more material than typical classes. There are more opportunities to explore topics in depth.

- More time, inside and outside of the classroom, is required to complete lessons, assignments, homework, and projects.

- Teachers expect students to think critically, analyze and synthesize facts and data, weigh multiple perspectives, and write clearly and persuasively.
Students & Teachers ... In Their Own Words

Students say...
Miss Angela Grace Levasseur (Class of 2021) BFA
Miss Emily Lynne Morrison (BHS Class of 2017) enrolled at Clemson University

Teachers say...
Mr. Kyle Baron (AP Human Geography) BFA
Mrs. Cassi Buys (AP Government) BHS
AP Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

- Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
  - Multiple-choice questions
  - Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response
Most two- and four-year colleges and universities in the United States offer credit or advanced placement for qualifying AP Exam scores.

**Credit:** Students earn credit toward their college degrees.

**Higher placement:** Students can skip introductory courses and move directly into higher-level classes, and/or fulfill general education requirements.
Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP® credit and placement. The College Board offers information about AP credit at thousands of college and universities at www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy.

- Search by school name or alphabetically
- Data for each school includes a direct link to that school’s web page detailing AP credit and placement policies
- Statement from the college or university about the school’s AP policy
Next Steps
Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

**What AP course is right for me?**
Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:
- Which courses do you enjoy most in school? In which subjects do you excel?
- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?

**Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:**
- In which AP courses at our school am I likely to do well?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or prepare me for college and careers?

**What steps do I need to take?**
- Are there study groups or people who can offer help if I need it?
- What can I do next to help me prepare for AP?
Please join us in the lobby tonight for a chance to talk to our AP teachers! THANK YOU!

AP options can be discussed specifically during your child’s Individual Graduation Plan in the spring at Byrnes Freshman Academy and Byrnes High School. These conferences are held each year with your child’s guidance counselor.