

PATRIOTS

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SANDY CREEK

 **CollegeBoard**

AP[®]

 **Diploma
Programme**

Advanced Placement
International Baccalaureate Program
Course Offerings &
Registration Process
2024-2025

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Introduction to AP

Why choose Advanced Placement (AP)?

AP is a rigorous academic program built on the commitment, passion, and hard work of students and educators from high school and college. The college-level coursework can benefit students in a number of ways. AP coursework can:

- impact college admissions decisions;
- demonstrate you are a serious student;
- benefit you financially by reducing time spent seeking a college degree;
- increase likelihood of on-time college graduation;
- build academic skills and confidence;
- support time management and study skills prior to college;
- reinforce flexibility, adaptability, communication, and problem solving skills;
- provide the opportunity to explore subjects of interest in more depth.

Additionally, research shows that 85% of selective colleges report student's AP experiences are a positive factor in the admissions process.

What are student and family commitments?

Advanced Placement courses are postsecondary-level classes which are provided at high school in the course of a regular school day. Many colleges and universities award either course credit or possibly exemption from certain required coursework. Not all postsecondary institutions honor AP exam credit, however; each college or university has its own standards by which it weights AP coursework taken in high school. Students are advised to check with the respective institution for details on its AP course and exam policies. AP examinations are conducted in May of each year, and students who take AP exams are responsible for paying AP examination fees unless the Georgia State legislature provides funding.

AP coursework is based on the national curriculum determined by the College Board with the goal of preparing students to demonstrate mastery through AP exams. AP courses are taught and evaluated at the college level and might require up to 10 hours weekly for each class to study or prepare. This time commitment begins on the first day of school and lasts until exams in May.

All AP courses require student investment in advanced coursework. Some courses might recommend summer preparation such as reading or skill practice. Before registering for multiple AP courses, weigh your other commitments including extracurriculars, clubs, sports, work, trips, family commitments, etc. against the time you are willing to dedicate to your coursework as well as your other pursuits. Additionally, some courses require students to meet prerequisites including classes completed as well as minimum grades earned. Read about the prerequisites on the [SCHS AP Course Guidance](#) document.

Students who register for AP courses must take the AP exam as it is the goal of an AP course. The AP exam fee is \$98 for most exams and \$146 for Capstone (Seminar and Research). There is an exam fee reduction for students who meet federal guidelines for Free and Reduced Lunch. The reduced exam fee is \$53.

What should families discuss when considering AP coursework?

- Am I able to balance my current course load? Do I need more or less challenging courses?
- How much time do I spend preparing for class outside of the regular school day?
- Will I have more or less time to devote to my studies next year?
- What am I most interested in studying while in high school?
- What are my plans after graduation?

AP Course Offerings

Capstone - 2 courses (Research & Seminar) SY 24-25 AP Seminar SY 25-26 AP Research Music Theory English Language & Composition English Literature & Composition Human Geography Psychology US Government and Politics US History Modern World History	Calculus AB Calculus BC Precalculus Statistics Chemistry Environmental Science Physics 1 Spanish Language and Culture
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*Rising 9th grade students might be eligible for courses in **bold**.

Requesting AP Courses

You are interested in taking an AP course. What should you do next?

1. Visit the [College Board](https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/course-index-page) website and learn more about the course and what you will be expected to do on the exam. (<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/course-index-page>)
2. Attend the Electives and Advanced Placement Night in January to learn about the course offerings and the requirements.
3. Talk to your parents about the additional time that taking an AP course would mean. Do you plan to devote additional time to school? If not, don't sign up for an AP course. Find another way to challenge yourself.
4. Talk to your teacher about the course and whether you have the skills needed to succeed in an AP course.
5. Talk to your counselor about the course. Be honest with yourself about the time and energy that you are willing to put into an AP course; this will help you decide whether the course is a good fit for you or not.
6. Make sure that you have the prerequisites and that you meet the requirements for taking the AP course. Read about the prerequisites on the [SCHS AP Course Guidance](#) document.

If you have the prerequisites and you have done your research on the course, it is time to register. When you meet with your counselor, register for the AP course that interests you.

Very few students should take more than 2 or 3 AP courses in a year. Please keep this in mind when making your decision.

Students are required to submit the online course request [SCHS School Website](#) to be considered for AP courses. Read through this course catalog for information to:

1. review course offerings and determine which courses you would like to request,
2. determine if you meet the prerequisites for the course, and

3. review and agree to the AP Policies and Agreement.

AP Potential

The College Board generates an AP Potential Report from PSAT Scores. Your counselor will use this report to advise you of courses in which you might be successful. Use this information to inform your selection process.

AP Coursework Protocols and Agreements:

Advanced Placement courses offer college-level coursework in the high school setting, affording students the opportunity to receive college and high school credit simultaneously. If accepted into an AP course, both students and parent understand and agree to the following:

- ✓ I will complete all summer reading and assignments (if applicable).
- ✓ I will be enrolled in the yearlong course for two semesters; class changes will NOT be permitted.
- ✓ I may not transfer from an AP class to a regular education class.
- ✓ I will take the first semester exam.
- ✓ I am required to take the AP exam for each AP course in which I am enrolled and I assume all responsibility for payment for all AP exams (currently \$98 per exam or \$145 for Capstone Seminar and Research).
- ✓ I understand that the grade I earn in an AP class will be averaged into my cumulative GPA and that a separate GPA will be calculated with an AP quality point added.
- ✓ I understand that once I accept an AP class qualification, I have signed a binding commitment.
- ✓ My acceptance into AP is based on successful completion of prerequisite courses. If I fail a prerequisite course second semester, my AP acceptance will be revoked.

Steps to Registration

1. **Orientation:** Discuss registration information during classroom advisement. Handouts with elective and core course information will be provided. Students should use this information to make their selections.
2. **Academic Advisement:** Students meet individually with their counselors and discuss selections based on academic performance, prerequisite courses, future goals, and graduation requirements.
 - a. Feb 12th - 16th
Registration: Individual advisement with counselors and **11th grade students** counselors through their US History/AP US History classes
 - b. Feb 26th - Mar 1st
Registration: Individual advisement with counselors and **10th grade students** counselors through their World History/AP World History classes
 - c. Mar 4th - 8th
Registration: Individual advisement with counselors and **9th grade students** counselors through their English classes

Once selections are made in Infinite Campus, courses will be built for the following year. Only those courses for which there is adequate enrollment and/or trained faculty will be offered in the upcoming school year. Courses, number of sections, and staff assignments are determined on the basis of each student's selected course requests. It is imperative, therefore, that you thoughtfully consider which courses you would like to take next year. Courses are built based on your personal requests and will not be able to change.

3. **Schedule Changes:** Student-initiated schedule changes are not possible after the schedule has been created. Students are not able to change electives or Advanced Placement course selections after **June 1, 2024**. Schedule changes made at the start of the school year are allowed based on the following criteria:
 - A student has an empty period in his/her schedule.
 - A student has already received credit for a course listed in his/her schedule.
 - A student has not met the prerequisites for a course in his/her schedule.
 - The registrar must adjust class sizes.

**STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
DROP AN AP COURSE FROM THEIR**

SCHEDULES AFTER JUNE 1.

English/Language Arts

Language and Composition:

Description: This course is equivalent to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Learn about the elements of argument and composition as you develop your critical-reading and writing skills. You'll read and analyze nonfiction works from various periods and write essays with different aims: for example, to explain an idea, argue a point, or persuade your reader of something.

Skills for Success: On grade-level reading comprehension and academic writing

Prerequisites: 10th Grade Lit *Minimum Grade of 85% (S1)* or Gifted 10th Grade Lit *Minimum Grade of 80% (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments: Consistent reading, writing, language, and research skill practice, but the workload is manageable for most students.

Recommended Summer Preparation: [Click Here](#) for Summer Reading Assignment

Literature and Composition:

Description: This course is equivalent to a college-level literature course. Learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. You'll read literary works and write essays to explain and support your analysis of them.

Skills for Success: On grade-level reading comprehension and academic writing

Prerequisites: American Lit or AP Language *Minimum Grade of 80% (S1)*, or successful completion of College English Dual Enrollment Course.

Out of Class Commitments: Outside of class you will need to read novels, one each season. You will need to write and rewrite essays and various other assignments in response to prompts designed by the College Board and by the teacher of the course. The work is manageable for most students.

Recommended Summer Preparation: Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

Fine Arts

Music Theory:

Description: This course is the equivalent of a one- or two-semester college introductory music theory course. Learn to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music. You'll develop skills by listening to, reading, writing, and performing a wide variety of music.

Skills for Success: Time management and keeping up with classwork and homework with a hard-working attitude

Prerequisites: 1 year of band, chorus, guitar or orchestra *Minimum Grade of 85% (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments: Sight-singing and practice skills learned in class through homework

Recommended Summer Preparation: musictheory.net practice [APMT Summer Theory](#)

Mathematics

Calculus:

Description: This course is equivalent to a first-semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus (AB) or a first-semester college calculus course and the subsequent single-variable calculus course (BC). Explore the concepts, methods, and applications of differential and integral calculus. You'll work to understand the theoretical basis and solve problems by applying your knowledge and skills.

Skills for Success: Strong Algebra Skills and Unit Circle Knowledge

Prerequisites: AP PreCalculus (*Math teacher recommends AB or BC*)

Out of Class Commitments: Students are expected to take notes and/or complete practice problems nightly. Plan on practicing 45-60 minutes each night. A mandatory mock exam will be held on a Saturday morning in April; the exact date is to be determined in January.

Recommended Summer Preparation: Students will receive a summer online assignment to review algebra skills including the unit circle.

Precalculus:

Description: In AP Precalculus, students explore everyday situations and phenomena using mathematical tools and lenses. The framework focuses on four key units of study that colleges expect students to demonstrate to qualify for credit or placement. Precalculus can fulfill a math requirement at a diverse range of colleges and universities, including the majority of public institutions. The course also offers a valuable tool for guiding math and science placement for newly enrolling students. College Board is working with colleges and universities to expand credit policies and ensure that AP Precalculus sets a strong foundation for college success.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Accel GeoB/Advanced Algebra or H/G Advanced Algebra OR Advanced Algebra with *Minimum grade of 85%* OR Accelerated students wishing to double in math (e.g. take AP Stats concurrently with AP PreCalculus or AP Calculus)
Minimum grade of 85% in current course

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Statistics:

Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. Learn about the major concepts and tools used for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. You'll explore statistics through discussion and activities, and you'll design surveys and experiments.

Skills for Success: Strong background in Algebra 2

Prerequisites: Accelerated Geo/Advanced Algebra, Advanced Algebra, AP PreCalculus, or PreCalculus (*Minimum grade of 85 for Advanced Algebra or PreCalculus or an Accelerated Student wishing to double in math*)

Out of Class Commitments: Students are expected to read their textbook and take notes. Students are also expected to do practice problems nightly.

Recommended Summer Preparation: Summer online assignments throughout the summer.

Science

Chemistry:

Description: This course is equivalent to a one-year, introductory college general chemistry course. Learn about the fundamental concepts of chemistry including structure and states of matter, intermolecular forces, and reactions. You'll do hands-on lab investigations and use chemical calculations to solve problems.

Skills for success: Hard work, willingness to face challenges, and time management

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry *minimum grade of 85% for both*

Out of Class Commitments: Students are expected to complete 30 minutes of homework/studying every night. On occasion, labs may need to be completed before or after-school.

Recommended Summer Preparation: Your teacher will prepare a summer activity to ensure you keep your Chemistry and Math skills fresh.

Environmental Science:

Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. Explore and investigate the interrelationships of the natural world and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made. You'll take part in laboratory investigations and field work.

Skills for Success: To prepare for success in AP ES students will need to **demonstrate a willingness to/have:**

- set goals for the class
- strong work ethic
- read to learn
- study effectively
- participate in class discussions
- set goals for the AP Test.

Prerequisites: 9th Grade/STEM: Physical Science, 11th & 12th Grade: Biology and Chemistry (*Minimum Grade of 80% in all*)

Out of Class Commitments: Pre reading from text, Daily video/ question completion, Free response question (FRQ) practice, Completion of formal lab reports, and Independent research projects.

Recommended Summer Preparation: Summer assignment will be posted on SCHS website. This assignment consists of introduction to Environmental Science videos and outdoor adventure scavenger hunt.

Physics 1:

Description: This course is equivalent to a first-semester introductory college course in algebra-based physics. Learn about the foundational principles of physics as you explore Newtonian mechanics; work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. You'll do hands-on laboratory work to investigate phenomena.

Skills for Success: Curiosity and a strong work ethic are essential for this course. Concurrent enrollment in pre-calculus or AP Calculus is a plus but not required. There is NO calculus in this course and we do very little "plug and chug" math problems. We apply formulas/graphs to analyze an object's motion

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry *Minimum Grade of 85% in both* and Algebra and Geometry *Minimum Grade of 85% in both*

Out of Class Commitments: If you keep up with your assignments, nightly homework/review should only take 20-30min.

Recommended Summer Preparation: The summer assignment consists of 3 sections. The entire assignment will only take about 3 hrs. The first section covers information about the AP Physics 1 course and exam; the second is a short math review; and the third is an introductory online lab simulation.

Social Studies

Human Geography:

Description: This course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. Explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of Earth. You'll use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use.

Skills for Success:

- set goals for the class
- read to learn
- study effectively
- participate in class discussions
- ask questions and ask for help

Prerequisites: Rising 9th Grade: Gifted Georgia Studies *Minimum grade of 80% OR* Georgia Studies and English *Minimum grade of 85%* in both
Rising 10th Grade: 9th Lit or Gifted 9th Lit *Minimum Grade of 80% (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments: If you keep up with your assignments, nightly homework/review should only take 20-30min.

Recommended Summer Preparation: There are no required summer assignments; however, keeping up with world current events is extremely helpful.

Macroeconomics:

Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory college course in macroeconomics. Explore the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. You'll use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: AP US History or US History and Advanced Algebra (*Minimum Grade of 80% in both*)

Out of Class Commitments: Students will need 30 - 45 minutes per school night for homework, practice and studying concepts.

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Psychology:

Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory college course in psychology. Explore the ideas, theories, and methods of the scientific study of behavior and

mental processes. You'll examine the concepts of psychology through reading and discussion and you'll analyze data from psychological research studies.

Skills for Success: Study skills and organization are essential. Anyone can be successful in the class that is self motivated. You will have a small amount of homework every night and you will want to interact and participate in class!

Prerequisites: AP World History or AP US History *Minimum grade of 80% OR* World History or US History and Current English Class (S1) *Minimum grade of 85% in both*

Out of Class Commitments: Expect to spend approx 20 min on an average night for vocabulary in the class.

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Capstone - Seminar

Description: The AP Capstone Diploma Program is a two-year program based on two AP courses, AP Seminar and AP Research. Students who fulfill the requirements can earn academic awards recognized by colleges around the world. Develop and practice the skills in research, collaboration, and communication that you'll need in any academic discipline. You'll investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give presentations both individually and as part of a team.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: *Minimum Grade of 80% in current English course (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Capstone: Research (SY: 2025-2026)

Description: Build on what you learned in AP Seminar to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, you will design, plan, and conduct a year-long research based investigation to address a research question.

US Government and Politics:

Description: This course is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in U.S. government. Study the key concepts and institutions of the political system and culture of the United States. You'll read, analyze, and discuss the U.S. Constitution and other documents as well as complete a research or applied civics project.

Skills for Success:

Prerequisites: AP US History: *minimum grade of 80%* OR US History: *minimum grade of 85 %*

Out of Class Commitments:

Recommended Summer Preparation: [Study of the Constitution and its Amendments](#)

US History:

Description: This course is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course in U.S. history. Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the United States from c. 1491 to the present. You'll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments.

Skills for Success: AP U.S. History is equivalent to a two semester introductory course in U.S. History. To prepare for success in APUSH students will need to **demonstrate a willingness to:**

- set goals for the class
- read to learn
- study effectively
- participate in class discussions
- ask questions and ask for help

Prerequisites: AP World History *Minimum grade of 80%* OR World History and Current English Class (S1)
Minimum grade of 85% in both

Out of Class Commitments: Students on average will need to commit 30 to 45 minutes 5 nights a week on homework and studying for APUSH.

Recommended Summer Preparation: Students are not required to complete summer assignments for APUSH. However, students may find watching historical documentaries or reading historical books helpful in preparation for the course.

World History:

Description: This course is equivalent to an introductory college course in modern world history. Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped the world from c. 1200 CE to the present. You'll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments.

Skills for Success: Skills for Success: To prepare for success in APWH students will need to **demonstrate a willingness to:**

- set goals for the class
- read to learn
- study effectively
- participate in class discussions
- ask questions and ask for help

Prerequisites: AP Human Geography or Gifted 9th Lit *Minimum Grade of 80% (S1) OR 9th Lit or Minimum Grade of 85% (S1)*

Out of Class Commitments: Students on average will need to commit 30 to 45 minutes 5 nights a week on homework and studying for APWH.

Recommended Summer Preparation: There are no required summer assignments; however, watching world history documentaries is extremely helpful.

Contact:

World Languages

AP Spanish Language and Culture:

Description: This course is designed to align with an advanced level, equivalent to a third- or fourth-semester college course in Spanish. Elevate your Spanish language proficiency and immerse yourself in the rich cultures of Spanish-speaking regions worldwide. Practice fluent communication in Spanish and engage with authentic materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and literature.

Skills for Success:

- **Fluent Conversational Agility:** Develop the ability to converse seamlessly in Spanish, demonstrating adaptability even in the face of errors.
- **Advanced Reading Proficiency:** Hone the skill of close reading to comprehend intricate written materials effectively.
- **Mastery of Persuasive Essay Writing:** Craft compelling argumentative essays in Spanish, showcasing a nuanced command of the language.
- **Refined Interpretive Listening Skills:** Develop the capacity to accurately interpret spoken Spanish across a range of contexts.
- **Adaptable Study Techniques:** Tailor study approaches to individual learning styles, optimizing language acquisition.
- **Effective Memorization Strategies:** Master advanced techniques for memorizing complex vocabulary and grammatical structures.
- **Strategic Time Management:** Acquire advanced time management skills for efficient and focused language learning.
- **Intellectual Curiosity:** Cultivate a profound interest in exploring linguistic and cultural intricacies.
- **Intellectual Risk-Taking:** Encourage a willingness to take intellectual risks, fostering a deeper understanding of the language.
- **Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness:** Develop a nuanced understanding of cultural nuances, gestures, and expressions specific to diverse Spanish-speaking regions. Embrace and respect the richness of cultures within the Spanish-speaking world.
- **Collaboration and Communication Excellence:** Engage in complex language projects, such as group presentations, debates, or skits, to enhance teamwork and communication skills in Spanish.

- **Digital Literacy Mastery in Spanish:** Develop proficiency in utilizing Spanish-language digital tools, online resources, and social media platforms to stay abreast of current events, connect with native speakers, and access authentic language content.
- **Critical Thinking in Spanish:** Practice advanced analytical and evaluative skills in Spanish, distinguishing between fact and opinion and forming well-reasoned arguments within the cultural context.
- **Media Literacy in Spanish:** Understand how media sources in Spanish-speaking countries present information, recognize biases, and differentiate between various media formats (e.g., articles, videos, podcasts).
- **Tech-Savvy Language Learning:** Master the effective use of technology for language acquisition, utilizing language-learning apps, online dictionaries, and other technological resources.

Prerequisites: Spanish III; Heritage or Native Speaker background

Out of Class Commitments: Students must commit to using the Spanish language outside of class for 20-30 minutes daily. This may be achieved through diverse modalities such as conversing with native speakers, reading news articles, watching television in Spanish, using language learning apps, listening to music in Spanish, reviewing class materials/notes, or exploring poetry/novels in Spanish.

Recommended Summer Preparation:

Create a comprehensive digital grammar compendium in Google Drive. This guide should encompass all grammar covered in previous Spanish levels, organized into advanced categories:

- **Advanced Syntax Structures:** Explore complex sentence structures, including compound and complex sentences, and their application in both spoken and written Spanish.
- **Subjunctive Mood Mastery:** Delve into the intricacies of the subjunctive mood, understanding its various forms and applications in different contexts.
- **Advanced Pronoun Usage:** Deepen understanding and usage of various pronouns, including relative, demonstrative, and reciprocal pronouns.
- **Elevated Verb Tense Proficiency:** Enhance knowledge of advanced verb tenses such as the conditional and the perfect tenses, examining their nuanced usage.
- **Literary Analysis Techniques:** Develop skills in analyzing and interpreting literature in Spanish, exploring themes, symbolism, and cultural contexts.

- **Advanced Idiomatic Expressions:** Familiarize yourself with sophisticated idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms used in diverse Spanish-speaking regions.
- **Exploration of Linguistic Evolution:** Investigate the historical evolution of the Spanish language, exploring linguistic changes, borrowings, and influences.
- **Cultural Debates and Discussions:** Engage in debates and discussions focused on cultural topics, fostering critical thinking and expressive communication in Spanish.
- **Advanced Phonetics:** Deepen understanding of Spanish phonetics, including regional variations, accents, and pronunciation nuances.

Additional items you could consider to enhance your Spanish language skills during the Summer:

- **Virtual Language Exchange:** Explore online platforms facilitating language exchange with native Spanish speakers, enhancing oral proficiency and cultural understanding.
- **Podcast Listening Practice:** Subscribe to advanced Spanish-language podcasts covering diverse topics, exposing yourself to different accents, vocabulary, and conversational styles.
- **Interactive Language Games:** Integrate advanced language learning games and interactive quizzes into your daily routine, making the learning process enjoyable while reinforcing complex grammar and vocabulary.
- **Literary Exploration:** Read advanced Spanish literature or novels during the summer, exploring various genres and authors to expand vocabulary, comprehension, and appreciation for diverse literary styles.
- **Online Courses or Workshops:** Enroll in advanced online language courses, workshops, or webinars focusing on specific language skills or cultural aspects, adding a structured learning component to summer preparations.
- **News Analysis in Spanish:** Follow advanced news articles in Spanish, critically analyzing current events to improve language skills and gain insight into global issues from a Spanish-speaking perspective.
- **Cultural Events Attendance:** Attend virtual or local advanced cultural events related to Spanish-speaking cultures, including online festivals, webinars, or virtual museum tours, providing exposure to various cultural aspects.

If there's a specific topic that wasn't addressed in your earlier classes, establish a new section, incorporating your independent research on the subject, and include a note acknowledging that the topic wasn't covered in class. Submit this during the initial week of school for summative credit.