

Advanced Placement and Honors Planning Night

Planning Night

Date:

Thursday, February 3

Time:

6:30 - AP/Honors
7:30 - High School Planning

Place:

IHS Commons

February 3 Planning Night

All parents of current freshmen, sophomores and juniors are invited to attend High School Planning Night on February 3.

The evening's purpose is to inform parents of programs available to their students and the admissions processes for 2- and 4- year colleges.

At 7:30, the counselors will present information about graduation requirements, college entrance requirements,

course planning, Running Start, NEVAC courses, college in the high school courses, and career and college planning.

This information should empower parents to help their students plan their course selection for the coming years.

The Planning Night will begin at **6:30** with a new informational session regarding the **Honors, Advanced, and Advanced Placement** courses offered at Issaquah High.

The session will provide specific information about each course offering, detailing the reading required, major projects, benefits and general expectations. We hope this will encourage students to consider taking on the challenge of an advanced course. In addition, we trust it will help students and their parents make informed decisions about the number of advanced courses to take while maintaining healthy and balanced lives.

Honors & Advanced Placement Courses Offered at IHS

10th Grade

Honors European Studies
Advanced English 10

11th Grade

AP US History
Advanced American Literature
(AP English Language & Composition)

12th Grade

AP Government & Politics
AP English Literature & Composition

World Languages

AP French Language
AP Spanish Language

Math

AP Calculus AB and BC
AP Statistics

Science

Advanced Biology
Advanced Chemistry
AP Physics

Other Electives

AP Psychology

Why Advanced Placement?

Advanced Placement courses allow students to study a subject in greater depth, develop self-directed learning skills and prepare for the challenge of college work.

Much research has been done on the value of AP courses. A major study by the US Education Dept. entitled "Answers in the Tool Box" determined that

"Despite the emphasis... placed on high-school grades and rank, those are not the strongest predictors of college completion. What matters instead is how rigorous and challenging students' high-school courses are, no matter what grades they receive" (Adelman 1999). This study found that students who took no AP courses graduated from college at a rate of only 33% by age 30. Those who took one

AP course nearly doubled the likelihood of college graduation to 59%, and those who took two or more AP courses raised the likelihood to 76%. A table presenting similar evidence from a study in Texas is printed on the back.

The skills that students gain from being involved in an AP course pave the way for college success and completion.



Thinking of Going to College?

If your student is thinking about going to college, Advanced Placement (AP) courses are a good place to begin preparing for the rigorous road ahead.

AP classes allow students to practice many skills necessary to succeed in the challenging college environment.

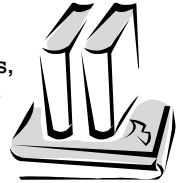
The curriculum's fast pace, class's intellectual discussions, and students' individual accountability prepare them for the rigors of college work.

Taking AP courses in high school allows students to experience the more demanding workload of college courses in a class with fewer students than found in many college classrooms, along with more support from the teacher and high school community.

Students who take the AP exam in May, and pass with a score of three or better, have an opportunity to earn college credit, putting them ahead of the game

when they arrive on campus. Students whose scores fall below a three still benefit as they have gained the skills necessary to be successful in a college course and are better prepared for the course when they do take it in college.

Finally, when a student's transcript lists AP courses, colleges recognize his or her willingness to meet academic challenges.



Advanced Placement by the Numbers

AP's Impact on Texas Students: Percent of TX high school students receiving bachelor's degrees from TX colleges & universities within 5 years of graduation			
	passed AP exam in HS	took, did not pass AP exam	did not take AP exam
Anglo (47,647)	57%	43%	22%
Hispanic (19,868)	47%	26%	8%
African-American (7,813)	42%	36%	11%
Low-Income (22,028)	40%	24%	7%
Total (78,079 students)	57%	37%	17%

Source: National Ctr. for Educational Accountability

IHS Students taking AP Exams in 2004		
AP Exam Title	# of students	% of students who passed exam
AP Calculus AB	45	66.5%
AP Calculus BC	8	62.5%
AP English Lang.	92	85%
AP English Lit.	35	83%
AP French Lang.	7	43%
AP Government	64	83%
AP Spanish Lang.	15	86.5%
AP US History	64	89%

Over the last three years, 80.5% of IHS students who took an AP test earned a score of 3 or better, the minimum score to earn college credit. Nationally, 61.5% of the students scored a 3 or better in 2004. In that time, IHS has given over 1200 AP exams.

Succeeding in Honors and Advanced Placement Courses

Honors and Advanced Placement courses are designed to challenge students. Those with solid study skills and a dedication to learning do well in these courses. Also, through taking these courses, students' study skills can improve dramatically. If you recognize your student in the

following description, these courses might be right for him or her:

Successful AP & Honors students...

- Pay close attention to detail.
- Have strong listening skills.
- Willingly take on challenges.
- Manage time well.

- Want to develop skills that will ensure future success.
- Handle multi-faceted projects well.
- Enjoy participating in class discussions.
- Enjoy the analytical process.
- Demonstrate initiative.