AP Snap Shots

AP Spanish:

Who is eligible to take this course?
This course is open to all interested students who have successfully complete Spanish IV. Students who are enrolled in this course should already have a good command of the grammar and considerable competence in listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Synopsis of course:
The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is a college level course equivalent to a third year college course, conducted entirely in Spanish, which prepares students to communicate proficiently through three modes (interpretive, presentational and interpersonal). The successful passing of the College Board AP exam can result in multiple college credits being awarded- beyond the standard 3 credits. Credits are dependent upon specific college programs; example: score of 3 is equivalent to 12 credits at PSU; score of 4 is equivalent to 15 credits at PSU. Messiah College gives 6 credits to a score of 3; they award 9 credits to a score of 4. Each college/university is different- please inquire with your admissions counselor.

Expectations:

- The majority of meaningful practice and activities take place during class time; therefore, consistent attendance is required.
- Daily verbal participation in class discussions
- Nightly homework (short grammar exercises)
- Persuasive Essay once/cycle
- Projects each quarter

AP French:

Who is eligible to take this course?
This course is open to all interested students who have successfully complete French IV. Students who are enrolled in this course should already have a good command of the grammar and considerable competence in listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Synopsis of course:
The AP French Language and Culture course is a college level course equivalent to a third year college course, conducted entirely in French, which prepares students to communicate proficiently through three modes (interpretive, presentational and interpersonal). The successful passing of the College Board AP exam can result in multiple college credits being awarded- beyond the standard 3 credits. Credits are dependent upon specific college programs; example: score of 3 is equivalent to 12 credits at PSU; score of 4 is equivalent to 15 credits at PSU. Messiah College gives 6 credits to a score of 3; they award 9 credits to a score of 4. Each college/university is different- please inquire with your admissions counselor.

Expectations:
- The majority of meaningful practice and activities take place during class time; therefore, consistent attendance is required.
- Daily verbal participation in class discussions
- Nightly homework (short grammar exercises)
- Persuasive Essay once/cycle
- Projects each quarter

AP US History:

Who is eligible to take this course?
Students who received an A in both 9th grade and 10th grade social studies

Synopsis of course:
The Advanced Placement United States history course covers American history from discovery to present. The course is designed to be taught at a post-secondary education level. Accordingly, all books, materials, readings, and discussions will be comparable to those used at the college level. Activities, assignments, and assessments will be rigorous, designed to ensure success on the Advanced Placement test, as determined by the College Board. Students will take regularly scheduled exams designed to mirror the format of the College Board AP exam in addition to regular reading and college level writing assignments. The course will include a comprehensive examination of content, critical analysis of primary and secondary sources, higher level historical thinking skills, cooperative learning activities, extensive opportunities to express thoughts, opinions, analytical thinking skills, and knowledge via written and spoken word. The course will prepare students for the AP exam, but it will also encourage a curiosity for life-long learning and an examination of how our past influences the present.

Expectations:

- Students will be expected to spend approximately 4-6 hours per week preparing for class. This may include, but is not limited to, reading assignments, study guide packets for each chapter, test preparation and writing assignments. At a minimum, students must be willing and able to dedicate 4-6 hours outside regular class time in order to achieve success in AP U.S. history.
- Due to the immense amount of content, students must not fall behind. All material must be covered by the first week of May, so students are required to work at a very rapid pace.
- The great majority of work within APUSH requires students to think analytically. Only students who are willing to engage should consider APUSH as an option.

AP U.S. Government and Politics:

Who is eligible to take this course?
Students who received an A in both 10th grade and 11th grade social studies

Synopsis of course:
During the course of study students will critically examine politics and government in the United States. The course will focus on 1) the constitutional underpinnings of the United States government; 2) the institutions of national government; 3) civil liberties and civil rights; 4) political beliefs and behaviors; 5) political parties, interest groups and the mass media; and 6) public policy.
During the course of study students will gain an understanding of the foundations of government, federalism, the powers of the three branches of government, the electoral process, political parties, the influence of interest groups and the media. Students will study historical and current events issues involving civil liberties and civil rights to determine the legal, political and social ramifications of these events.
All assignments, activities and assessments have been developed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam, as determined by the College Board. Students will take chapter tests that have been written in the College Board AP format. Assignments are chapter reading and college level reading and writing. The class will analyze the content of primary and secondary sources, which requires higher level thinking skills. Weekly current events assignments and discussions allow students to apply analytical thinking skills and offer an opportunity to discuss thoughts and opinions on politics, aspects of the government, the Constitution and its interpretations, and current politics. The course is designed to prepare students for the AP exam and will provide an understanding of our government, foster civic engagement, and will provide knowledge that will be applicable to daily life in the U.S.

Expectations:

- Students will be expected to spend approximately 4-6 hours per week preparing for class. This may include, but is not limited to, reading assignments, current events assignments, test preparation and writing assignments. At a minimum, students must be willing and able to dedicate 4-6 hours outside regular class time in order to achieve success in AP U.S. Government and Politics.
- Due to the immense amount of content, students must not fall behind. All material must be covered by the first week of May, so students are required to work at a very rapid pace.
- The great majority of work within AP Government and Politics requires students to think analytically. Only students who are willing to engage and be willing to commit to a rigorous schedule should consider AP Government and Politics as an option.

AP Language and Composition:

Who is eligible to take this course?
This course is open to all eligible students who have successfully completed Honors English in 10th grade and earned a teacher recommendation from that course.

Synopsis of course:

An AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The class prepares students to take the AP Exam which ordinarily consists of 60 minutes for multiple-choice questions, a 15-minute reading period to read the sources for the synthesis essay and plan a response, and 120 minutes for three essay questions. Students should expect that there will be substantial writing to prepare for the exam in the course of the year.

Expectations:

- This class combines the expectations for the eleventh grade Honors American Literature class in addition to the components required to pass the AP Language and Composition exam.
- While this is a composition class, there is regular reading that is required to assist with class discussion and composition creation, thus being diligent and expeditious while maintaining excellent comprehension is required.
- Students are required to write on average one essay per week for the entire year.
- Two practice timed tests, which test and mimic the AP exam, are done each month.

AP Literature and Composition:

Who is eligible to take this course?
This course is open to all eligible students who have successfully completed Honors or Academic English in 11th grade.

Synopsis of course:
This course will provide an enriching experience in the study of literature and advanced composition, as it fulfills the curricular requirements of the *AP English Course Description*. The literature spans the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries, with an emphasis on written response to and class discussion of reading assignments. The major works assigned may vary slightly from year to year, but the study of literary elements and the analytical writing process remains the same. Refining writing technique will be a primary focus through literary analyses (both argumentative and interpretive), which implement various critical approaches, and the study of composition, including varied sentence structure, mechanics, transitioning, and precise word choice. Throughout this process, students will perfect their writing skills through revision and submittal of second drafts.

Expectations:
The students will learn to interpret and analyze the literary works, as well as to express their ideas through writing clearly, coherently, and persuasively.

Preparation for the class—daily 30-45-minute reading assignments.

AP 2 Dimensional Studio Art:

Who is eligible to take this course?

This program is a college-level course intended for highly motivated seniors committed to serious study in art. Students are expected to develop a portfolio which demonstrates ability to deal with the fundamental concerns of the visual arts: QUALITY, a sense of excellence; SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION, an intensive development of an idea or concept; BREADTH, a variety of experiences in the formal, technical, and expressive means available to an artist.

Synopsis of course:

The AP 2 Dimensional Studio Art Course is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. Students submit portfolios to the College Board for evaluation at the end of the school year. The portfolios correspond to the most common college foundation courses. Students create a portfolio of work to demonstrate the artistic skills and ideas they have developed, refined, and applied over the course of the year to produce visual compositions. The successful passing of the College Board AP Portfolio evaluation can result in multiple college credits being awarded- beyond the standard 3 credits. Credits are dependent upon specific college programs. Each college/university is different- please inquire with your admissions counselor.

Expectations:

AP Studio Art students work with diverse media, styles, subjects, and content. Student work is informed and guided by observation, research, experimentation, discussion, critical analysis, and reflection, relating individual practices to the art world. Students are asked to document their artistic ideas and practices to demonstrate conceptual and technical development over time. The AP Studio Art Program supports students in becoming inventive artistic scholars who contribute to visual culture through art making.

In early May, students submit actual works and digital images of works for the portfolio evaluation. These works should demonstrate artistic growth and development. Students also submit an artist statement in which they describe ideas investigated and explain how the ideas evolved as they created their body of work. All portfolios are assessed by at least seven highly experienced studio art educators who apply standard scoring criteria.

- A large portion of meaningful practice and research takes place during class time; therefore, consistent attendance is required.
- Participation in peer and self critics is essential
- Successful students will need to work outside of class to produce quality art pieces at a rate of roughly one per week. The final portfolio consists of 29 pieces.
- It is expected that students in the AP 2 Dimensional Studio Art Course complete artwork and meaningful preparation during the summer prior to participating in the course. This significantly reduces the work load and stress experienced during the school year.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Selected Works (Quality) | 5 works mailed to the College Board| 33% of Portfolio Score
• Demonstrate mastery of design in concept, composition, and execution

Section II: Sustained Investigation (Concentration) | 12 digital images | 33% of Portfolio Score
• Describe an in-depth explanation of a particular design concern

Section III: Range of Approaches (Breadth) | 12 digital images | 33% of Portfolio Score
• Demonstrate understanding of design issues

AP Statistics:

Who is eligible to take this course?
This course is open to all eligible students who have successfully completed Academic Algebra II and earned a teacher recommendation from that course. Students who are enrolled in this course should already have an in-depth understanding of conceptual and procedural methods from all prerequisite courses.

Synopsis of course:
This course is designed to follow the AP statistics curriculum (A complete course description can be found at www.collegeboard.com). It will provide an introduction to statistical methods and data analyses that are common to a first level collegiate course. The course will address topics in both descriptive and inferential statistics. Topics will fall under one of four major headings: (1) Exploring Data – Observing patterns and departures from patterns; (2) Planning a Study – Deciding what and how to measure; (3) Anticipating patterns – Producing models using probability theory and simulation; and (4) Statistical Inference – Confirming models. (Note: AP Statistics is designed to prepare students for the advanced placement statistics test administered by the College Board. The successful passing of the College Board AP exam can result in college credits being awarded. Credits are dependent upon specific college programs. Each college/university is different- please inquire with your admissions counselor.

Expectations:

- Consistent class attendance for the purpose of understanding statistical concepts
- Daily participation in class activities
- Completion of daily homework assignments
- Reading the textbook outside of class in addition to completion of daily homework assignments
- Integration of technology for solving statistical problems
- Intermittent use of past AP Open Ended Questions for test preparation and conceptual understanding

AP Calculus AB:

Who is eligible to take this course?
This course is open to all eligible students who have successfully completed Honors Pre-calculus and earned a teacher recommendation from that course. Students who are enrolled in this course should already have an in-depth understanding of conceptual and procedural methods from all prerequisite courses.

Synopsis of course:
The AP Calculus AB course is a college level course equivalent to a first semester college calculus class. Advanced Placement Calculus AB provides those students who began the study of algebra at the eighth-grade level an opportunity to gain an additional year's work in accelerated mathematics. There is a concentration on theory as well as application of calculus principles. This course is designed to follow the AP calculus AB curriculum (A complete course description can be found at www.collegeboard.com). The course will address topics in both derivative and integral calculus. Topics will fall under one of four major headings: (1) Limits; (2) Continuity; (3) Derivatives; and (4) Integration. (Note: AP Calculus AB is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Calculus AB test administered by the College Board. Institutions of higher education may or may not recognize a passing score on this exam for credit.) The successful passing of the College Board AP exam can result in college credits being awarded. Credits are dependent upon specific college programs. Each college/university is different- please inquire with your admissions counselor.

Expectations:
- The majority of meaningful concept discussion and investigation take place during class time; therefore, consistent attendance is required.
- Daily participation in class investigations and procedural calculations
- Nightly homework problem solving and computational techniques
- Math Lab Project generally accompanies each instructional unit and requires technology integration

AP Calculus BC:

Who is eligible to take this course?
This course is open to all eligible students who have successfully completed Calculus AB and earned a teacher recommendation from that course. *This is an invitation only course.* Students who are enrolled in this course should already have an in-depth understanding of conceptual and procedural methods from all prerequisite courses including Calculus AB. **Prerequisite**: Invitation by instructor only.

Synopsis of course:
The AP Calculus BC course is a college level course equivalent to a second semester college calculus class. Advanced Placement Calculus BC provides those students who began the study of algebra at the seventh-grade level an opportunity to gain additional work in accelerated mathematics. There is a concentration on theory as well as application of calculus principles. AP Calculus BC provides our most talented mathematical students an additional year's work in collegiate mathematics. There is a concentration on theory as well as application of calculus principles. This course is designed to follow the AP Calculus BC curriculum (A complete course description can be found at www.collegeboard.com). The course will address topics in both derivative and integral calculus. Topics will fall under one of five major headings: (1) Limits; (2) Continuity; (3) Derivatives; (4) Integration; and (5) Sequence & Series. (Note: AP Calculus BC is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Calculus BC test administered by the College Board. Institutions of higher education may or may not recognize a passing score on this exam for credit.) The successful passing of the College Board AP exam can result in college credits being awarded. Credits are dependent upon specific college programs. Each college/university is different- please inquire with your admissions counselor.

Expectations:
- The majority of meaningful concept discussion and investigation take place during class time; therefore, consistent attendance is required.
- Daily participation in class investigations and procedural calculations
- Nightly homework in problem solving and computational techniques
- Math Lab Project generally accompanies each instructional unit and requires technology integration
- Intermittent use of past AP Open Ended Questions for test preparation and conceptual understanding

AP Chemistry:

- **Who is eligible to take this course?** Students who have completed Honors Chemistry or have completed Academic Chemistry and have received a recommendation from their chemistry teacher.

- **Synopsis of the Course:** This course builds upon the basic concepts of chemistry covered in the first year. Topics include molecular structure and intermolecular forces, states of matter & phase changes, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, kinetics, equilibrium, acid-base theory, aqueous reaction types, and other topics, time permitting.

- **Expectations:** A high degree of proficiency in math skills (manipulation of equations, graphing, basic geometry and trigonometry, use of logarithms, etc.,) is assumed and such skills are applied throughout the course. Students are expected to apply and extend concepts covered in class to a variety of scenarios which extend well beyond those covered in class directly. The course is highly dependent on questions and answers, give and take between the students and the teacher and from student to student. Homework includes approximately 2-3 hours per week of practice problems and review questions in the textbook and in the form of worksheets. These assignments represent the MINIMUM that students must do to succeed in the course. Students are also expected to do extra practice as needed to work through concepts for which they deem that they need more practice. To achieve maximum success on the AP Chemistry exam, students consistently should expect to go beyond the minimum required work. In addition to these review and practice opportunities, student must also complete lab exercises. Approximately once per 6 day cycle, we will perform a lab experiment which will require preparation of a journal entry prior to the lab and a report of results, calculations, conclusions and review questions as a follow up to the experiment. (Essentially, we constantly are expanding our lab journal.) Above all, students are expected to take ownership of their own learning and must be willing to ask questions to advance their understanding of the topics covered in class and in lab.

AP Physics:

Who is eligible for this course?

Anyone who has completed Honors Physics successfully. Students who are enrolled in this course should already have a solid understanding of the concepts covered in Honors Physics as well as strong mathematics skills, especially algebra skills.

Synopsis of course:

AP Physics is a college level course equivalent to introductory Physics in college. The course goes above and beyond the content of Honors Physics, covering similar topics but in much more detail, as well as going on to topics not present in Honors Physics. A high score achieved on the College Board AP Exam can result in credits equal to an introductory science course, allowing someone to skip introductory science courses and move to a higher level science in college.

Expectations:

- Students will be responsible for practice both in school and out of school. Time will be given in class, but anything not finished in class will be homework.
- Lessons will occur almost daily, so new content will be introduced at a relatively fast pace.
- Tests will be given at the end of each unit.

This is a lab course, so most units will include some kind of lab and lab report.

AP BIOLOGY:

Who is eligible to take this course?

This course is open to all eligible students who have earned an Honor grade of an "A" (93% or above) in Honors Biology I (9th grade) and in Chemistry I (10th grade). Students may also take this course concurrently with Chemistry I if they meet the Honor Biology I prerequisite and obtain permission from the instructor.

Synopsis of the course - Course Description

AP Biology is a year-long course designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester college introductory biology course. Emphasis will be given to higher-level biochemistry, cell regulation, mechanisms of heredity, adaptation, ecology, and biodiversity. Within each of these topics, AP Biology shall focus on the concepts of science as a process, evolution, energy transfer, continuity and change, relationship of structure and function, regulation, interdependence in nature, and science technology in society. In addition to exams, quizzes and homework, detailed laboratory work will make up 25% of a student's grade. Students will be able to earn college credit through mastery of the AP Exam.

Course Expectations:

- Students will show evidence of mastery of the thematic essential questions using assessment tools which include, but are not limited to: Lab work, homework, class work, quizzes, chapter tests, and simulated AP-format questions. In addition to informal teacher assessments, students will be given a summative evaluation at the end of each unit following the guidelines and rubrics required by the College Board.
- AP Biology emphasizes science as a process, not just a step-by-step following of procedures. As a result, students will be placed in charge of each lab. These students will be in charge of setting up and explaining the major concepts of the lab to the entire class. In addition, comprehensive lab reports will be required for completed lab work. The labs in AP Biology are difficult and time-consuming. Students are expected to use their time and materials efficiently.
- Exams will be designed based upon the AP Exam, with 50% of the grade coming from multiple choice and grid-in questons, and 50% coming from free response questions.
- AP Biology is designed for fast paced curriculum and demanding schedule of reading assignments. Students will be responsible for reading chapters in preparation for upcoming classes. Chapters must be read/ reviewed with attention paid to details. To ensure students are keeping up with the material, they will be provided with reading/lecture guides that will help them hit the main ideas of the chapter. At the end of every chapter, students may be given a chapter quiz or be required to demonstrate mastery or the key concepts.
- Attending class, being on time to class, meeting deadlines and working (daily) outside of class is expected and essential to success in AP Biology. ***Students will be expected to spend approximately 5-7 hours per week preparing for class.***
- Students are expected to participate and add value to discussions.
- Being organized is very important in this course. Many materials will be distributed and students will need to keep them organized and available.
- Critical thinking and problem solving skills are required for success and will be utilized daily.