

FAQs on AP at EK

Question: How is an Advanced Placement (AP) class different from a traditional course?

Answer: AP courses are college-level classes that are designed to prepare students for the rigor of college studies. AP courses must meet College Board standards to be considered "AP".

Question: Who can take an AP class?

Answer: Any student who meets the course pre-requisites and/or recommendations and is up for the challenge of an AP course is encouraged to take one or more AP classes. AP students should be willing to work hard and utilize higher level thinking skills. Taking AP courses in high school serves as great preparation for future learning and may earn a student college credit via scoring well on AP exams. Colleges like to see students challenging themselves with appropriate high school courses, and AP courses are a great way for students to show that they are up for the rigor of college.

Question: How are AP courses graded?

Answer: Students receive the letter grade they earned for the class. This is the actual letter grade that will go on the report card and transcript. However, AP grades are calculated into students' grade point averages on a 5.0 scale; for example, an earned grade of a C+ calculates as if it's a B+.

Question: If I take an AP course at EK, am I required to take the AP exam?

Answer: Taking the AP exam is encouraged but is not mandatory. Students should make their decision based on how prepared they feel for the test and how receiving certain test scores will help them with their future education plans. The amount of college credit given varies from college to college and is based on AP exam scores and not on letter grades earned. In other words, students must choose to take the AP exam – not just the class – in order to have a chance at college credit. Students do not have to make a testing decision until partway through 2nd trimester.

Question: Am I required to do summer work?

Answer: Most of the AP courses require summer work. You must see the instructor before the end of the school year to obtain your summer work and to check out textbooks, if necessary. Staffing has been determined for this year, the following teachers will teach AP classes during the 2012-2013 school year and will be the source of your AP summer work and/or additional information on the course:

AP Language = Mr. Gorkowski (rm 44), Mr. Crooks (rm 50)

AP Literature = Mrs. Volovlek (rm 43)

AP Calculus = Mrs. Montgomery (rm 227W)

AP Statistics = Mr. Wilcox (rm 220W)

AP Chemistry = Mrs. Erskin-Seay (rm 211W)

AP Biology = Mr. VanHouten (rm 209W)

AP Physics = Mrs. Sloma (rm 222W)

AP U.S. History = Mr. Ozanich (rm 57)

AP World History = Mrs. Bodbyl (rm 56)

AP Psychology = Mr. Bays (rm 54) and Mr. James (rm 53)

AP Government = Mrs. Baker (rm 49)

AP Microeconomics and Macroeconomics = Mr. Rademacher (rm 59) [no summer work]

AP Spanish = Mr. Anderson (FC rm 217)

AP Computers = Mr. Dixon (rm 14)

For additional information on the Advanced Placement program at East Kentwood High School, visit <http://www.kentwoodps.org/ourschools/eastkentwoodhighschool1012/> and look at resources related to Advanced Placement programming as well as the current Course Description Book.