

Advanced Placement (AP)

*“An Opportunity to take a Rigorous College-Level Class
at East Kentwood High School”*

The Advanced Placement program is administered by College Board, which sets the standard for all AP courses taught by local high school teachers around the world. Each AP course that we offer has met the College Board standard through an audit process before it could be labeled AP. Our teachers are continually looking at ways to provide the rigor of a college level class, which usually includes summer work before the school year starts. Additional time may also be required during the school year. For example, the science courses require one lab period before school each week.

Students interested in an AP course need to look at the prerequisites necessary to build them a foundation for success. This information can be found in the annual EKHS Course Description Book. We want each student to succeed, and it starts with foundation building through hard work and time commitment.

The national exam for each course is given during the first two weeks of May. Each exam is given on a designated day and time nationally. We now test off-site because of the volume of exams given and to give students the best testing environment available.

Grading:

The course grade for the class and the AP exam score are separate. The student receives a grade during the school year issued by EKHS. College Board scores the AP exams in June, and the students receive their scores(s) in July. The scores are sent to one college of the student's choice. Students may select more colleges to receive their grade(s) for a fee.

Process:

The starting point is building a firm foundation in elementary and middle school for success. The process of reaching a higher level is hard work and persistence. You want to do your best in whatever you want to try.

At East Kentwood Freshmen Campus and East Kentwood High School, you meet with your counselor to build a schedule for the next school year in January-March. Parent involvement is important because of the commitment to the program, so we encourage parents and students to make this choice together and with a long term vision. Things may change in your school years, but there needs to be a goal that you want to attain.

The master schedule is built in May/June so that we know what teachers, textbooks, and equipment are needed to provide the best learning environment for the student. Many AP classes fill up, so open spots are not guaranteed for students who make late decisions to take AP classes.

Summer work is given to the student before the end of the school year prior to taking the AP course. Each student needs to meet with the AP teacher to receive the summer work. It is expected that the work will be done and students are ready to go when school starts in September.

Signing up for Exams:

Around January each AP student will receive a Parent/Student Booklet from College Board, a sign-up sheet and a letter to the parent/guardian at a presentation in their AP class. Test fees are collected at the end of February first week of March for test ordering. We do pre-administration in April where students fill out one answer sheet prior to the testing in May. This is the time to select the college that they want their test score(s) to go.

Exams are given the first two weeks in May. College Board sets up the testing dates and times. Each testing period is usually scheduled up to 4 hours. Students are excused from their classes during the testing period.

2012-2013 Course Offerings:

Biology	Physics
Calculus	Psychology
Chemistry	Spanish Language
Computer Science - New	Statistics
English Language and Composition	Studio Art
English Literature and Composition	US Government & Politics
Environmental Science - New	United States History
Macroeconomics	World History
Microeconomics	

Special Information about the AP Program:

A goal of our program is to have students take challenging courses while in Kentwood Public Schools. If a student chooses to take an AP course, we do not require them to take the AP exam. We encourage them to take the AP exam because it demonstrates to the college that they can meet a national college standard, but students make the final choice on whether or not to test. Each university determines how much college credit, if any, it will give for a passing score. They are the final judge.

A student can take an AP exam without taking an AP course. We have also given exams selected by students over the years even when the course has not been offered during that school year. There is financial support based on federal and College Board guidelines to help with exam fees.

Data about Advanced Placement at East Kentwood:

AP Scholar Awards Earned by East Kentwood Students

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
14	25	40	32	28	55	61	43	56	58

Number of Students Who Took Exams & Exams Administered

Students Tested:

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
130	142	157	150	165	228	246	240	264	319

Exams Administered:

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
225	268	303	282	288	393	444	391	417	556

Percentage of Passing Scores (3 or above) of Exams Taken

<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
73%	73%	76%	70%	83%	73%	64%	65%	77%	64%

Contacts:

The information provided should give you an overview of the AP Program, what we offer, and how we are doing. As you look at whether your student wants to take on the challenge of a college level course at East Kentwood, there may be other questions that come to mind. There are two main contacts to assist you. One is the counseling department at East Kentwood, where the counselors can answer general questions. Students may also talk with the instructor of the specific AP course. The main phone number for the high school is (616) 698-6700.

It is important for both the student and parent to know what the expectations are for the AP Program as you build your child's educational future.

Are you preparing yourself for the 21st Century?