

# Fairfield Area High School

## Advanced Placement Handbook 2019-2020

### Advanced Placement Philosophy

At FAHS, Advanced Placement students will be offered the opportunity to participate in a college-level learning environment. It should be understood that Advanced Placement courses are challenging. However, most students can rise to the challenge. The Advanced Placement courses require that students are independent learners practicing effective time management, directed inquiry, strong study skills, applied analysis, and critical thinking. The objectives of the courses are to excel in the Advanced Placement examination in May and to promote a successful transition to college.

### Advanced Placement Background

The Advanced Placement Program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools, colleges, and universities. Since its inception in 1955, the Program has provided motivated high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting. Students who participate in the program not only gain college-level skills, but in many cases they also earn college credit while they are still in high school. AP courses are taught by dedicated and enthusiastic high school teachers who follow course guidelines developed and published by the College Board." (The College Board, <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com> April 2011)

### AP Exam Fees

Students taking AP courses are expected to participate in the AP exam for that course in May. The current cost of the AP exam is \$96.00 (subject to change, per the College Board), and payment will be due to Fairfield Area School District no later than December 16, 2019. The Fairfield Area School District will provide assistance with payment for students qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

If you register for an AP exam and are unable to take the exam on the exam day, you will be required to pay the \$15 exam return fee, in addition to the \$45 late exam fee, totaling \$60. Exam dates are scheduled by the College Board and must be taken on the assigned test day.

Any Fairfield Area High School student taking an Advanced Placement exam and receiving a score of a 5 can request to be reimbursed for the cost of the exam. The reimbursement form can be found on the FASD High School AP website.

Complete guidelines for the AP Exams can be accessed at The College Board's website  
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/index.html>

### AP Course Summer Assignments

Upon enrolling in an Advanced Placement class at FAHS, students will be expected to complete summer assignments, which are very important to the AP Program and serve three purposes:

- They will help acquaint students with the rigorous workload involved in an AP class.
- They will help students complete the additional amount of material contained in an AP class.
- They will help students remain sharp and mentally active over the summer. It is our philosophy that we create life-long learners and the learning does not stop in June and begin in late August.

It is the responsibility of the student to see the teacher of an AP course before the end of the school year in June to receive the assignments and materials needed for the summer assignments. Assignments will be due at specific dates throughout the summer – students must make themselves aware of the deadlines.

***Failure to submit the summer assignments before or on the specified due date will result in the summer assignment grade reflecting negatively on the overall course grade when it is calculated into the course GPA. By completing the Commitment of Contract and Registration Form, you acknowledge that you are registering to complete the requested AP course, and will be enrolled in that course. Withdrawal from a registered AP course after the submission of this contract will require the approval of district administration and a college admissions office written statement that the AP course is not recommended for college entrance into requested major.***

Exceptions will be made for students who move into the district over the summer months. More information can be found on the FASD Advanced Placement page on the FAHS Academic tab.

Please read the attached Contract of Commitment and Registration Form, complete the form, and return the Commitment of Contract and Registration Form by Friday, May 31, 2019.

## Fairfield Area School District AP Commitment of Contract and Registration Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration for an Advanced Placement course is an indication of an individual's ability to perform on a college level and to accept academic responsibilities. By registering for Advanced Placement courses at FAHS in 2018-2019:

I understand and accept the following:

- As a student, I acknowledge the extra work commitment that an AP course requires.
- I am making a commitment to take this course for the full year.
- I understand the expectation to take the AP examination at the conclusion of the academic year in order to receive credit for the course. Payment for the exam will be due to the Counseling Office Secretary on or before Monday, December 16, 2019.
- I must complete the summer assignments for the course by the deadline specified by the AP course instructor. Failure to complete and submit the summer assignment by the specified due date will result in the summer assignment grade reflecting negatively on the overall course grade when it is calculated into the course GPA.
- I read the Advanced Placement course description and understand the scope of the class as well as the amount of material to cover in the coming year.
- I understand that six absences constitute two weeks of college level work and will put my understanding of that material at a disadvantage.
- I am taking the AP course with the goal of scoring 3 or higher on the AP Exam.
- I understand that AP Exams are offered at a preset date and time by College Board and must be taken on the assigned date and at the time directed by the College Board.

Please check all exams for which you will be taking in May 2020:

- ☐ English Lit & Comp (12<sup>th</sup>)  
☐ Statistics  
☐ US Government & Politics

Check or money order is preferred...please make payable to FASD. Cost per Exam: \$96

Please submit the completed registration form to Mrs. Balogh (counseling secretary) in the counseling office by Friday, May 31, 2019. Please submit payment for selected exams to Mrs. Balogh by Monday, December 16, 2019.

- ☐ Check here if you qualify for free/reduced lunch, in which case you may register without paying for the exams.  
☐ Check here if you qualify for a College Board approved accommodation.

If you are not able to take the exam on the designated day, you will be charged the \$15 fee to return the exam to College Board, in addition to the \$45 late fee.

Any questions/concerns, please email Mrs. Kristina Harvey at [harveyk@fairfield.k12.pa.us](mailto:harveyk@fairfield.k12.pa.us) or call at 642-2034.

### Students & Parents/Guardians

As a parent/guardian of a student enrolled in this Advanced Placement course, I acknowledge the level of responsibility required of my student, the expectations and financial obligations associated with an Advanced Placement course. I support the course requirements and I will help my student organize study time in support of class assignments.  
**Withdrawal from a registered AP course after the submission of this contract will require the approval of district administration.**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_