



# An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

Lake Park High School

# What We Will Cover

- What are Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Courses?
- The Benefits
- AP<sup>®</sup> Exams
- What Is It Like to Take AP?
- Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices
- Q & A

# Welcome

Lake Park High School is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to challenging course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.





# What Are Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Courses?

# Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>: The Basics

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college

# Our AP<sup>®</sup> Courses

- **Arts:** Music Theory, Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1, Physics C: Mechanics
- **World Languages:** French Language and Culture, German Language and Culture, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature and Culture

# AP<sup>®</sup> at Lake Park High School

- From 2003 to 2015, Lake Park's AP participation has grown from 318 students taking 516 exams, to 852 students taking 1443 exams.

**AP Scholars demonstrate superior college-level achievement through AP courses and exams**

- |                               |     |                    |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| • AP Scholars                 | 101 | 3.02 Average Score |
| • AP Scholar with Honors      | 67  | 3.63 Average Score |
| • AP Scholar with Distinction | 82  | 4.09 Average Score |
| • National AP Scholar         | 18  | 4.48 Average Score |
| • AP International Diploma    | 1   | 3.78 Average Score |



# AP<sup>®</sup>: The Benefits



# AP<sup>®</sup>: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college



# AP<sup>®</sup>: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers\*

*\*2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

# AP<sup>®</sup> Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.\* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.

- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$21,500\*\* for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

\*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

\*\**The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2011, Figure 1*

# AP<sup>®</sup> from the College Admissions Perspective

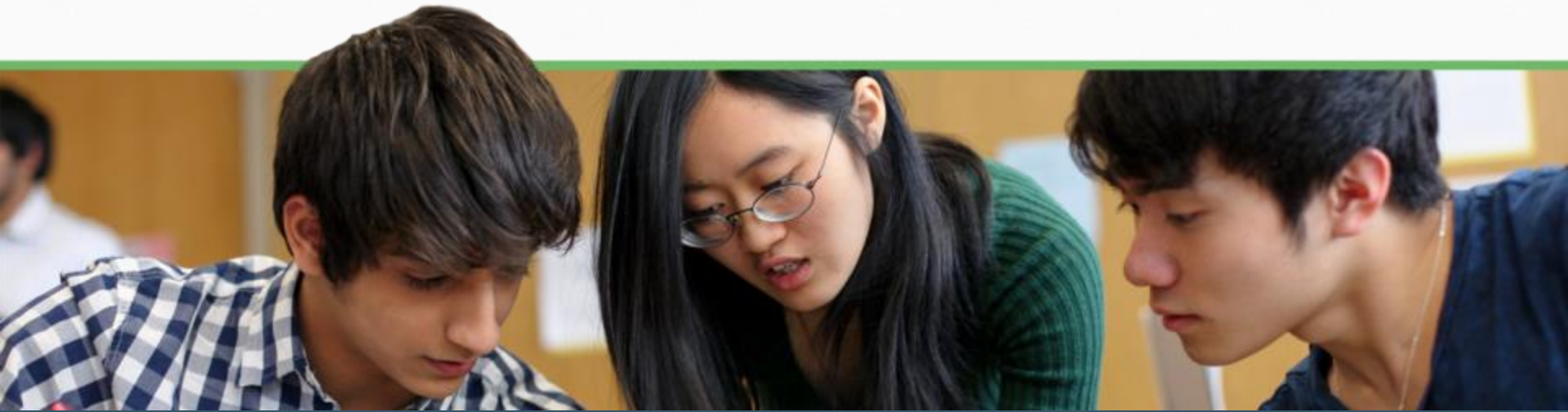
- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions\*
- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision
- AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers

*\*Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

# AP<sup>®</sup> Expands Students' Options

When students earn college credit through AP Exams, their options and opportunities expand:

- Move to upper-level college courses sooner
- Pursue a double major
- Gain time to study and travel abroad



AP<sup>®</sup>

AP<sup>®</sup> Exams

# AP<sup>®</sup> Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

- Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
  - Multiple-choice questions
  - Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response



# AP<sup>®</sup> Exam Fees

- The exam fee for Spring 2016 is \$92 per exam.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
  - The College Board offers a \$30 fee reduction per exam for eligible students with financial need.
  - Lake Park works with families with demonstrated financial need.



# Credit and Placement Opportunities

Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP<sup>®</sup> credit and placement. The College Board offers information about AP credit at thousands of college and universities at [www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy).



The screenshot shows the 'AP Credit Policy Info' page on the College Board website. The page is titled 'AP Credit Policy Info' and 'Advanced Placement Program'. It features a search bar with the text 'Find colleges and universities with AP credit policy information'. Below the search bar, there are several tabs: 'College Board Tools', 'Find a College', 'Find a Course', 'AP Credit Policy Info', and 'Pay for College'. The 'AP Credit Policy Info' tab is selected. The page includes a search form with a 'School Name' field and a 'Go' button. There are also links for 'AP Credit Policy Info', 'AP International Recognition', 'SAT Online Registration', and 'Services for Students with Disabilities'. The page footer contains the College Board logo and the text '© 2017 College Board'.

- Search by school name or alphabetically
- Data for each school includes a direct link to that school's Web page detailing AP credit and placement policies
- A statement from the college or university about its AP policy

# AP<sup>®</sup> Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	AP courses receive honors ranking at Lake Park. Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.



# Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

# AP<sup>®</sup>: Resources Worth Exploring for Students and Families

- AP information: [apstudent.collegeboard.org](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org)
- College and Career Planning: [bigfuture.org](https://bigfuture.org)
- Personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> results: My College QuickStart™  
[www.collegeboard.org/quickstart](https://www.collegeboard.org/quickstart)
- AP credit policy information from colleges and universities:  
[www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](https://www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy)

# www.lphs.org

In addition, check out the LPHS website, [www.lphs.org](http://www.lphs.org), for links to all of tonight's presentations.

Also...

Please take a moment to complete our feedback survey.

These can be dropped off in the student cafeteria.

# Explore AP<sup>®</sup>: Take the Next Step



AP<sup>®</sup>

# Questions and Answers