

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring 2017

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in pre-registering for at least one Advanced Placement (AP) class for the 2017-2018 school year. The Advanced Placement curriculum was developed by the College Board Committee consisting of high school teachers and university professors. An exam, developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) for the College Board, is given at the end of the course so that students can demonstrate what they have learned and possibly earn college credit.

This letter is intended to give you a few important facts about Advanced Placement at GHCHS as follows:

- Each AP course taught at GHCHS is designed to prepare students to take the AP exam. These exams cost approximately \$93.00 each. Reduced fees are available to students who participate in the free and reduced lunch program.
- Each college and university determines how it applies AP scores to college credits. Therefore, students should contact the college to determine what score will earn him or her credit.
- AP classes can be more rigorous than community college classes. AP classes meet and receive homework daily as opposed to community college classes, which generally meet one to three times per week.
- Homework in an AP course resembles the intellectual challenge and workload one would expect in a college course. Students who take AP classes must realize that time required for homework and study will be at least two hours outside of class for each period in class.
- AP courses require excellent attendance, extensive reading and writing, as well as higher-level analytical tasks, creative projects and increased class participation.
- AP courses often require completing summer assignments prior to the course start date. Students are responsible for contacting the teacher and completing the summer assignments on their own time.
- Taking AP courses means making choices carefully. Poor choices can result in undue stress, emotional distress, poor grades, feelings of failure, and high levels of frustration.
- The increased academic load **MUST** be considered in light of other things important to high school students such as a social life, extra-curricular activities, athletics, jobs, and other outside responsibilities (scouts, church, music, etc.)
- Students in AP courses CAN and DO have lives! In fact, many students have taken one or more AP courses in the past and have not only survived, but have also thrived! However, before committing to AP courses, each student should evaluate his/her own priorities.

To make an informed decision, read the packet of materials together as a family. Please sign all of the necessary papers and obtain all required signatures. The packet is not an application. Any student who is willing to take on the academic challenge and increased workload is eligible to take AP classes. Return the completed packet to your counselor no later than April 3, 2017.

Thank you for your interest in our Advanced Placement program.

Sincerely,

The GHCHS Counseling Staff