



Frequently Asked Question's about the AP Program at Caledonia High School

1. Should I take an AP class and what are the benefits of doing so?

Participating in an AP class gives students the opportunity to take a college-level course while they are in high school. AP courses are demanding and rigorous. They often involve two times the amount of work that a regular class would require. However, by taking an AP course students can earn college credit, they can develop their writing skills, problem solving techniques and study habits that are expected of college students.

2. How do I earn college credit for the exam?

With qualifying AP exam grades, students can earn up to a full year of college credit once they've attained a sufficient number of qualifying AP exam grades. Students can also earn placement in higher level courses. Ninety percent of four-year colleges and universities grant course credit and placement. You can obtain each college's policy in writing by visiting: www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy. Colleges that receive your AP Grade Report will typically notify you during the summer of any placement, credit or exemption you have earned. You can also contact the college's admissions office to find out the status of your AP credits.

3. What are honor points and how will they impact my GPA?

Students who take AP classes are graded on a 5.0 scale. For example: if a student receives a "B" for the trimester it would be considered an "A" on the regular grading scale. For students who receive "A's", they have the opportunity to boost their GPA above a 4.0.



Caledonia High School

Advanced Placement Courses FAQ

Preparing students for life!

4. How will taking AP classes affect my chances of getting into college?

Taking an AP course can't guarantee that a student will get into the college of his or her choice but it in no way will hurt their chances. The type of classes a student takes in high school is becoming one of the main factors that colleges look at in addition to GPA, ACT/SAT scores and extra curricular activities. The more rigorous a schedule a student takes the more likely they are to get a closer look by colleges and universities.

5. What supplies are needed for an AP course?

AP Calculus and Physics require a graphing calculator. The AP United States History course requires that students read a book over the summer that can be purchased or checked out from the library. It is also suggested that they purchase the textbook that is used during the course. AP Government students are encouraged to purchase a Study Guide from the instructor at the beginning of the trimester. For information on supplies for the AP Studio Art course, please contact the art department instructors for details.

6. How much homework can students expect from an AP course?

Generally students can expect to spend an average of one hour or more per night for **each** AP course they take. In addition, some courses require reading and preparation over the summer.



Caledonia High School

Advanced Placement Courses FAQ

Preparing students for life!

7. Are their informational meetings that students and/or parents are required to attend?

Each AP teacher holds an informational meeting with the students that sign up for their courses. Some of the topics discussed include the amount of work required, supplies needed, summer homework and other general class expectations. In addition AP English students are required to write a paper about an assigned book within 10 days of the meeting. This allows them to get a taste of what will be expected for this course. Some of these meetings take place in the spring (for the year long courses) and others take place in the fall (for the two trimester classes.) Each teacher is available to answer questions from students or parents any time. Below is the list of AP teachers for the current school year along with the subject they teach and their email address.

Biology: Cara Flegel - flegelc@calschools.org

Calculus: Tom Oster – ostert@calschools.org

Calculus & Physics: Deb Brunt - brunt@d@calschools.org

Chemistry: Sadie Bell – bells@calschools.org

English Literature: Beth Schuster – schusterb@calschools.org

Government: Matt Hilton - hiltonm@calschools.org

Physics: Julieanne Fischer – fischerj@calschools.org

Statistics: Jeanette Ruthven: ruthvenj@calschools.org

Studio Art: Evan Chamberlin: chamberline@calschools.org

Studio Art: Joel Reeder: reederj@calschools.org

United States History: Joel Diekevers: diekeversjo@calschools.org

World History: Yolanda Swartz: swartzy@calschools.org

If you have any other general questions or concerns about the AP courses offered at Caledonia High School, please feel free to contact the school's AP Coordinator, Mrs. Stacy Johnson in Student Services by email: johnsons@calschools.org or phone: (616) 891-0214.