

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Spring 2019

Your student has expressed an interest in pre-registering for at least one Advanced Placement (AP) class for the 2019-2020 school year. The Advanced Placement curriculum is developed by College Board Committees, which consist of high school teachers and university professors. An exam, developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) for the College Board, is administered in May of each year at the end of the course. The exam provides students an opportunity to 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 GHC as follows:

- Each AP course taught at GHCHS is designed to prepare students to take the AP exam. The cost for the exam varies each year and is determined by the College Board. 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 credit.
- AP classes are more rigorous than Honors (H) and College Prep (CP) classes and mirrors the rigor of a college class. However, unlike college classes, AP classes meet every day and have homework every day, as opposed to 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 homework and study time will require at least one hour to one and a half hours outside of class for each AP class a student takes.
- AP courses require excellent attendance, extensive reading and writing, as well as higher-level analytical tasks, creative projects, and increased class participation.
- Taking AP courses means making careful choices. Poor time management choices can result in undue stress, poor grades, feelings of failure, and high levels of frustration.
- The increased academic load **MUST** be considered in light of other important activities to high school students such as a social life, extracurricular activities, athletics, jobs, and other outside responsibilities.
- Students in AP courses CAN and DO have lives! In fact, many students take one or more AP courses and thrive! However, before committing to AP courses, each student should evaluate their own priorities.

To make an informed decision, please read the materials together as a family. The AP forms are NOT applications. Any student who is willing to take on the academic challenge and the increased workload is eligible to take AP classes. If you are interested in AP courses, please complete and return **Form 1** to your counselor no later than **March 21, 2019**.

Thank you for your interest in the GHC Advanced Placement program.

Sincerely,

GHC Counseling Staff