

Rising 9th Grade
Introduction to the AP
Program at FCHS

Is AP Right For Me?

- January 5, 2011

AP Night Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Introduction to AP Program at FCHS
- Introduction to 9th Grade AP Human Geography

Advanced Placement at FCHS

- The goal for the AP Program at FCHS is to provide students with college level rigor and the instructional support that will help them succeed in high school and beyond.

Attributes of the AP Program

- Rigorous subject area study with emphasis on higher level thinking skills, reading comprehension and writing
- A college-like experience in a high school setting w/ teachers trained to teach AP courses
- A cumulative, subject-specific standardized assessment given at the end of the course

The AP Formula

A positive attitude, a commitment to put forth a strong, consistent effort, and a motivation to excel inside & outside of the classroom is more important than a student's academic ability or potential alone.

SUCCESS in AP courses

What is Advanced Placement (AP)?

■ The AP Program

- A 50 year old partnership between the College Board, colleges/ universities, and high schools throughout the world that brings college-level coursework into the high school setting

■ FCHS offers AP beginning in 9th grade

- FCHS provides opportunity to take college level courses while still in high school and earn college credit depending on AP exam score and college policy. Always check individual college/university policies for AP credit or placement

Are AP & Honors/Horizons classes the same?

AP classes are different--

- AP classes have college-level expectations for students based on nationally-recognized curriculum standards;
- The quantity & quality of work expected in an AP course requires a greater student commitment of time, energy, and effort inside of & outside of the classroom;
- AP courses, resources, teachers & curriculum are reviewed & approved by the College Board annually;
- Students may earn college credit, advanced placement, or both—depending on AP exam performance

FCHS AP Study Pathway-- Overview

- AP Courses offered from 9th- 12th grades
- Coordinated with high school graduation requirements
- No travel/out of district transportation
- 12th grade AP courses can be combined with PSO/ACCEL options (college classes taught on FCHS campus by college professors)

FCHS AP Teachers

FCHS AP teachers are highly qualified to teach their AP courses & subjects--

- Trained and receive on-going training by the College Board to teach their AP courses;
- Endorsements and advanced degrees in their field;
- Recognized as the school, district, state, and national level for their work

Additional AP Info

Course Materials and Resources

- Every AP Course will include advanced/college-level tests, essays and readings (from provided textbooks and outside materials)
- Many AP Courses will include some sort of Summer Reading Assignment
- Most AP Courses have supplemental materials that are available for purchase outside of school by students/parents, including workbooks and flashcards
- Reading, writing, critical thinking, organizational & time management skills are heavily emphasized

Additional AP Info

In addition to classroom instruction, AP Teachers work to guide & support our students, including...

- Providing required and supplementary materials
- Offering optional study/review sessions during the school year and prior to the AP Exams in May
- Establishing clear, consistent expectations for student work

Students who choose to take AP Courses at FCHS agree to meet the expectations of the teacher, including consistent preparation for class, asking for help when needed, and meeting all deadlines for work & assignments.

FCHS AP Course Options: 9th Grade

Why only 1 AP course in 9th grade?

- AP Human Geography has been designed & placed in the curriculum with the 9th grade student in mind;
- AP courses have been intentionally placed in the course curriculum with high school graduation requirements and knowledge & skill pre-requisites in mind

Please see the Forsyth County Schools Course Digest at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us for information on course sequencing, pre-requisites, and graduation requirements

FCHS AP Options: 10th-12th Grade

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS

- AP English Language & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition

FCHS AP Options: 10th-12th Grade

MATHEMATICS

- AP Statistics
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus AB/BC

FCHS AP Options: 10th-12th Grade

SCIENCE

- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics

FCHS AP Options: 10th-12th Grade

SOCIAL STUDIES

- AP World History
- AP U.S. History
- AP U.S. Government
- AP Comparative Government
- AP European History

FCHS AP Options: 10th-12th Grade

FOREIGN LANGUAGE & FINE ARTS

- AP Spanish Language
- AP Studio Art (2D Design, 3D Design, Drawing)
- AP Art History

AP Myths and Misconceptions

- Everyone SHOULD take an AP Class
- You won't get into college WITHOUT taking AP Classes
- AP is the ONLY WAY to stand out for college admissions
- AP Courses will MAKE YOU A BETTER STUDENT

How do AP courses help students in high school?

- Students gain important practice in:
 - Organization (time & resources)
 - High level critical thinking: Analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information
 - Developing creative, narrative, persuasive, and expository writing skills
- AP courses give students a preview of the academic rigor of college-level work;
- Students can concentrate on courses in certain areas of interest or take a variety of AP courses

Additional benefits of participating in AP courses?

- Stand out in college admissions and scholarship selection
 - the most important factor in college admissions is the ability to show that a student has chosen a challenging selection of academic courses in high school
- Earn college credit (based on AP Exam scores)
 - Network of more than 3,600 college/universities worldwide
 - 90% of four year colleges in US award AP credit (based on AP Exam scores and individual policies)
- Are better prepared for the academic demands of college level work

More Benefits of Taking AP Courses

AP Students, when they enter college...

- Outperform peers in advanced courses in college
- Are more likely to take advanced courses in their AP course/subject areas when they enter college
- Are twice as likely to go into advanced study (graduate programs and beyond)
- Are more likely to graduate college in four years or less

Things to consider before choosing AP

Are students ACADEMICALLY prepared? (#1 Factor)

- Are students **MATURE** and able to cope with stress/pressure associated with these courses?
- Are students **RESPONSIBLE** and **MOTIVATED**?
- Are **PARENTS** ready to support their child's success in the AP course?

Am I an AP Student?

■ Characteristics:

- Mature
 - Self- motivated
 - Self-disciplined
 - Independent worker and thinker
 - Strong work ethic
- Do you have a record of academic success?
- Do you have the time (think of family, church, athletic, and extracurricular activities)?

Common Traits of Successful AP Students

- High Interest in the SUBJECT AREA (not just an interest in high grades...)
- Strong communication skills (Reading, Writing, Speaking, Expressing Opinions)
- Ability to recall what they know, process and understand NEW information QUICKLY
- A POSITIVE ATTITUDE about CHALLENGING academic work
- Ability to prioritize tasks and manage time effectively
- Are intrinsically motivated to learn
- Choose to take the course for themselves

How Do I Register for AP?

In January 2010, during middle school registration for next year's 9th grade:

- Speak with your current teacher(s) about a recommendation for AP Human Geography
- Talk to your current teacher(s) and counselor if you are unsure
- Registration forms for AP Human Geography will be available during registration at your middle schools

Recommendations for Students

Complete a Self Evaluation/High School Plan

- Take an honest look at your work habits, goals, plans, activities, available time
- Talk with counselors and teachers to see what they think about your level of preparedness for AP
- Talk with other students who are currently in AP Courses to see what they think
- Have a discussion with your parents about your academic goals and plans
- Check out [Collegeboard.com](https://collegeboard.com) for college information and other resources

Recommendations for Parents

Evaluate your child's readiness for AP

- Is he/she motivated? How are school stress and pressure handled? When things get difficult, how does he/she react?
- Is he/she able to read difficult, academic subject material independently?
- Does he/she enjoy school & their classes?
- Is he/she organized? Get work done independently? Meet deadlines on their own? Plan ahead or is everything done at the last minute?
- Are you ready to work with your child and support them throughout the year in a college-level course?

FCHS AP Course Options: 9th Grade

- AP Human Geography
- Mrs. Jennifer Garner
- FCHS AP Students Past & Present

For More Information on the FCHS AP Program

Mrs. Kim Head, FCHS Asst. Principal

Mr. Michel Satterfield, FCHS Asst. Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Garner, AP Human Geography

■ www.apcentral.collegeboard.com

■ www.collegeboard.com