

# AP Course Expectations & Agreement Form

Advanced Placement (AP) courses include rigorous curricula on par with introductory-level college courses and conclude with an optional, comprehensive standardized exam. Students may earn college credit for their AP exam scores; often, a score of 3 or higher (on a scale of 1 to 5) is sufficient to receive college credit.

*We encourage students and families to thoughtfully consider the workload of AP courses alongside your individual commitments to extracurriculars, family obligations, jobs, and more. A common error we see at STEM is to overload on AP courses to show rigor, without fully understanding the following: **1)** We offer rigor across the board with dual-credit, honors, and post-AP level courses, and **2)** An overloaded schedule can backfire at the student's academic and/or personal expense. A schedule with balanced rigor leads to a successful, healthy high school career and is more beneficial for future success and overall wellbeing.*

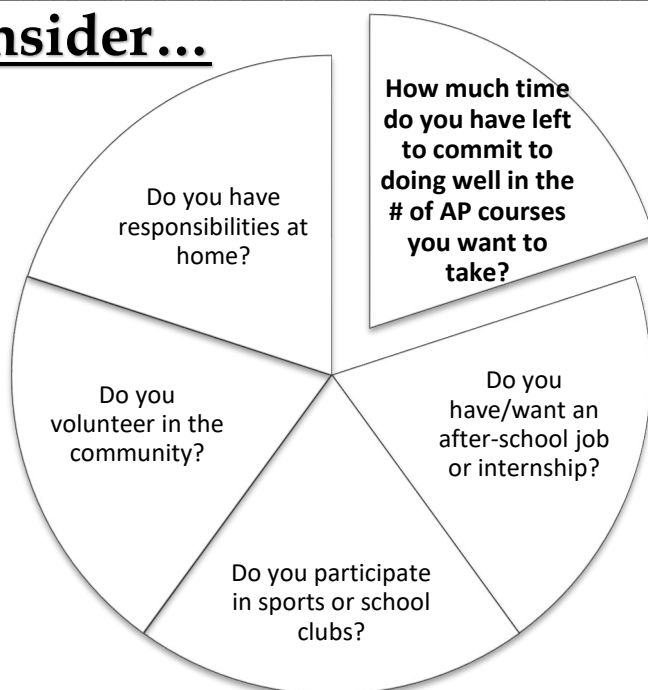
## Some Excellent Reasons to Register for an AP Class

1. Subject is highly interesting: "I am so excited to learn in more depth about this subject!"
2. Student is strongly considering a career or college major related to this subject.

## Some Misguided Reasons to Register for an AP Class:

1. **"It will look good on my transcript!"** Literally ALL courses taken at STEM will look good on your transcript
  - You will likely maintain a higher GPA by being selective about which AP courses you pursue. (FYI-cumulative GPA remains the number one most important factor in admissions!) Think quality over quantity.
2. **"ALL my friends are taking it!"** Each STEM student has a unique combination of outside commitments: varsity athletics, jobs, family commitments, clubs, leadership, etc. to consider while creating a personal academic plan.
3. **"I'm feeling pressured to take it** even though I am not interested in the subject and/or have many other rigorous courses and/or extracurriculars that I really want to do well in." See your counselor if you are feeling undecided or uncertain about your academic plan.

## Consider...



**Typical Daily Homework= 1 hour per AP class per day + additional time for studying for tests, major projects, etc. + homework time for all additional, non-AP classes.**

### Important questions to ask yourself before choosing your AP courses:

- Do I have enough time in 24 hours to give quality time to all my commitments and keep myself healthy (e.g. get a healthy amount of sleep (8+ hours))? **Y / N / Maybe**
- How efficiently do I complete homework? Is time management and organization a strength of mine? **Y / N / Maybe**
- How will I cope if the course-load is difficult to manage and I cannot change my schedule?
- Would I be willing to drop one or more extracurricular activities if necessary? **Y / N / Maybe**
- Would I be satisfied with a grade less than a "B"? **Y / N / Maybe**

#### AP Course Expectations:

- Courses are considered college-level (including textbook, reading-level and materials)
- **More hours of homework** than non-AP; expect 1 hour of homework per AP class, per night.
- Increased number of assignments and depth of assignments
- Course moves at a college pace
- **High level of self-motivation** expected for completion of projects and AP assignments
- Expect **substantial and required summer assignments** before beginning an AP course.
- The College Board does not allow schools/teachers to modify the AP requirements or textbook
- AP exams are during set dates/times in May and scheduled at high schools throughout the district

#### Non-AP or Honors Course Expectations:

- Course syllabi and content align with state and district standards
- Honors courses use advanced-level, district-approved textbooks
- Workload may be less than AP course, but is still substantial as part of our Tesla STEM Honors curricula
- Honors curriculum is designed to be challenging and consistent with Honors designation at other district high schools
- Courses align with rigorous high school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURES

❖ *I have read the information and recommendations regarding AP Course Expectations and will use this information to guide my selection of courses for the upcoming school year.*

❖ *I understand that I cannot request to change into or out of AP courses after June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

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Student name (Print)                      and                      Signature                      Date

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Parent name (Print)                      and                      Signature                      Date

Turn in with your course selection form and make one copy for yourself for future reference.