



**An Introduction to the  
Advanced Placement Program®**

**Grafton High School**

# Welcome

Grafton High School is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.



# What We' ll Cover

- What are Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Courses?
- The Benefits
- AP<sup>®</sup> Exams
- What Is It Like to Take AP?
- Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices



# What Are Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Courses?

# Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>: The Basics

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in introductory college courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college

# Our AP<sup>®</sup> Courses

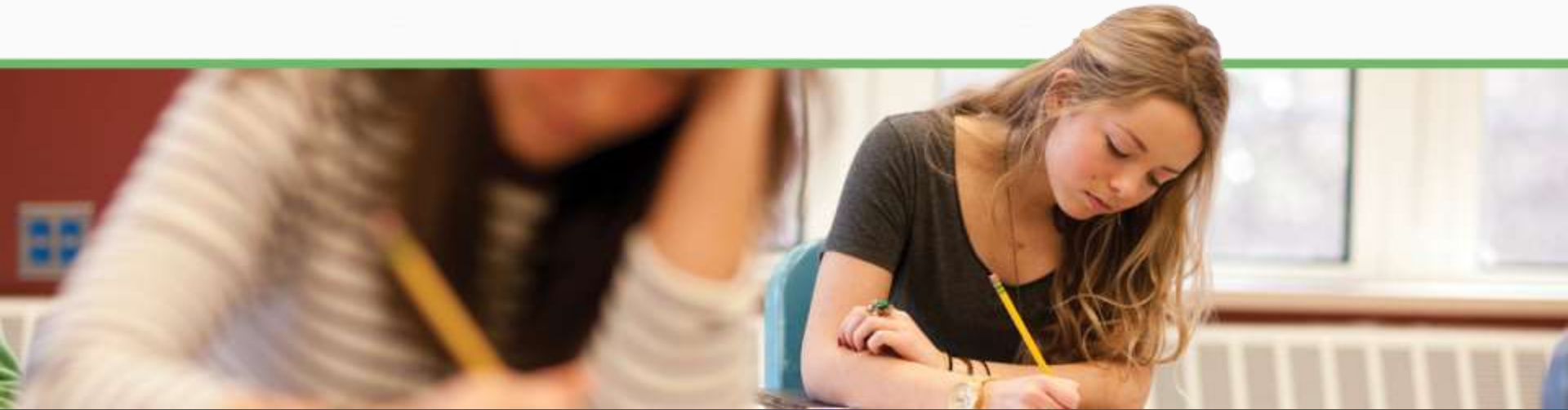
- **Arts:** Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Human Geography, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1: Algebra/ Trig
- **World:** Spanish Language



# AP<sup>®</sup>: The Benefits

# AP<sup>®</sup>: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college





# AP<sup>®</sup> from the College Admissions Perspective

- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions\*
- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision
- AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers

• *\*Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

# AP<sup>®</sup>: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers\*

*\*2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

# AP<sup>®</sup> Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.\* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.
- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$23,410\*\* for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

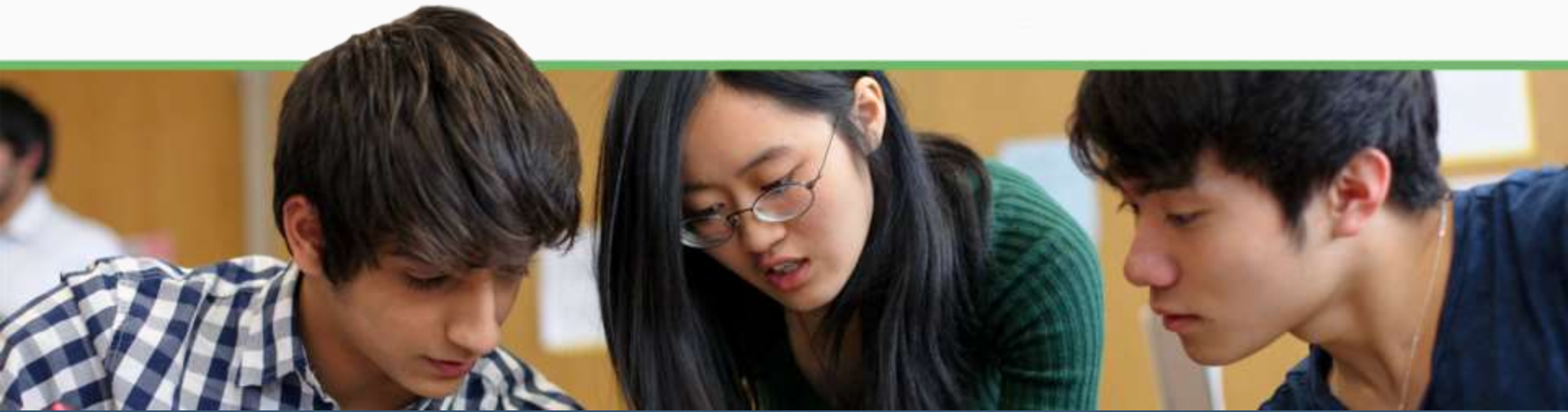
\*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

\*\**The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2014, Figure 1*

# AP<sup>®</sup> Expands Students' Options

When students earn college credit through AP Exams, their options and opportunities expand:

- Move to upper-level college courses sooner
- Pursue a double major
- Gain time to study and travel abroad



# AP<sup>®</sup>: A More Engaging Learning Experience

AP courses challenge students to work and participate at a higher level:

- Opportunities to explore topics in depth
- More time in and out of the classroom required to complete assignments and projects
- High expectations for critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evidence, multiple perspectives, and clear written and verbal communications

AP<sup>®</sup>

AP<sup>®</sup> Exams

# AP<sup>®</sup> Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

- Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
  - Multiple-choice questions
  - Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response



AP<sup>®</sup>

What is it like to take AP<sup>®</sup>?



# AP<sup>®</sup> Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.



# Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

# AP<sup>®</sup>: Start the Conversation

Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

## **What AP course is right for me?**

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- Which courses do you enjoy most in school? In which subjects do you excel?
- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

- In which AP courses at our school am I likely to do well?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or prepare me for college and careers?

## **What steps do I need to take?**

- What is our school's enrollment deadline?
- May I speak with a student who has taken an AP course?
- Are there study groups or people who can offer help if I need it?
- What can I do next to help me prepare for AP?

# AP<sup>®</sup>: Resources Worth Exploring for Students and Families

- AP information: [apstudent.collegeboard.org](https://apstudent.collegeboard.org)
- College and Career Planning: [bigfuture.org](https://bigfuture.org)
- Personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> results: My College QuickStart™ [www.collegeboard.org/quickstart](https://www.collegeboard.org/quickstart)
- AP credit policy information from colleges and universities: [www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](https://www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy)