



**Period:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Room:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE Commitment

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CONGRATULATIONS on your student's decision to enroll in an Advanced Placement course! A.P. classes offer the rigor of a college class while still enrolled in high school. The benefits are many: academic challenge, opportunity to study subjects in depth, the chance to earn college credit while still in high school, and become more competitive for college admissions. Your student's A.P. courses for the 2015-16 school year were listed on their course request letter.

We want students to challenge themselves and to be successful but we want you and your student to be fully aware of what to expect. Please review the following criteria with your student:

- ❖ Students are expected to be committed to meet the demands of the course: to finish the class and to take the A.P. exam at the end of the year
- ❖ Amount of total homework required for each A.P. class (see back side for specifics by class). Most courses have required summer reading.
- ❖ Amount of time needed to complete homework in other classes
- ❖ Involvement in sports and out of school activities
- ❖ Co-curricular time required for students involved in Drama, Band, Agriculture and Student Leadership
- ❖ Importance of family, friends, personal time and the need to sleep
- ❖ Planning for the cost of AP exams
- ❖ A student may **not** be allowed to drop an A.P. class after the beginning of the school year. If an exception is made to allow a student to change classes, please know that the student might be **required** to do additional work at the start of the new class to catch up with previous curriculum covered.

The cost for each AP exam is approximately \$90 each; however the benefits of taking and passing an exam while in high school is significantly less expensive than the cost of college courses. The AP course descriptions and course expectations are listed on the back for your reference. If you or your student has any questions about their decision to enroll in A.P. classes or have questions about specific courses, please feel free to contact your students counselor as listed below:

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Keri Hanson, Rh – Z

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# Advanced Placement Course Descriptions

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**American Government:** Students will conduct an in-depth study the formal structure of American Government, including constitutional principles, civil liberties, and the political processes and institutions that influence policymaking. The course combines lectures, case-studies, discussions, debates, and simulations. Students will have nightly textbook readings and weekly homework assignments that will require 3 – 5 hours per week.

**Biology:** Will require at least 30 minutes of homework per night and additional time on weekends. Due to extensive lab work, attendance is extremely important.

**Calculus AB or BC:** An average of one hour per night doing homework or studying. Attendance is extremely important

**Computer Science:** This is a blended **face-to-face** and **interactive online** course. Students are expected to meet for 1.5 hours each week and complete an additional 45 minutes of independent online work each day. Students who are most successful in this blended format are those who have the ability to work independently, speak and communicate clearly, and are comfortable with technology.

**Economics:** About twenty pages a week from a College level Economics textbook. Homework 2 to 3 days a week there will be Economics problems worksheets from the textbook and the lecture notes.

**English Language (11<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Average one hour homework per night of writing weekly essay rhetorical analyses and reading selections from three textbooks. During the year the student will write six essays and one research paper, compose several analytical or creative responses to readings, and read one outside novel by an American author per quarter.

**English Literature:** Homework will average 3-5 hours per week and will consist of reading, writing and completing class projects. You will be challenged to extend your critical thinking skills through reading, discussing, analyzing and writing about complex works of literary merit.

**Environmental Science:** Students must devote 2-3 hours per week to homework in addition to reading 1-2 chapters weekly of a college-level textbook. Students will also conduct complex experiments in a lab setting as well as outdoors which require thoughtful analysis and written lab reports. There is no summer work.

**French:** Homework will average 3-4 hours per week. Students should work on increasing their vocabulary using the book/lists provided to them in summer. Students are required to respond to readings, podcasts and other materials in written or spoken form (essay/verbal response).

**Music Theory:** Be prepared for an average of 45 minutes of homework each night. Students should work for at least an hour a week this summer on the assigned websites and basic fundamentals listed in the Summer Homework to be prepared for class in August.

**Spanish:** Be prepared for at least 1 hour of homework per weeknight plus some work on the weekends. This course requires weekly Spanish journal writing, editing, and rewriting as well as internet research in the target language. It requires that you read many short stories, plays and poems in Spanish and analyze literary elements of these genres through Spanish writing and speaking assignments.

**Statistics:** Will require about 30-45 minutes of homework per night and additional time on weekends.

**Studio Art:** Students will be required to produce 24 art works plus one essay in this course. Be prepared for at least one hour of homework per week night as well as weekend work. Students should devote 2-3 hours a week during the summer to get a head start on the portfolio.

**U.S. History:** To meet the requirements and cover the material set down by the College Board, students will be assigned approximately two hours of homework per class period and additional work on weekends. Students will be taught how to process college level materials and write essays that adhere to college level conventions. Evaluation of student work is also based on college level expectations.

**World History:** To meet the requirements and cover the material set down by the College Board, students will be assigned one to two hours of homework per class period and additional work on weekends. Students will be taught how to process college level materials and write essays that adhere to college level conventions. Evaluation of student work is also based on college level expectations.