

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

A.P. courses are designed to give high achieving, motivated students the opportunity to pursue college level studies in subject areas where the student has demonstrated exceptional interest, aptitude, and accomplishments.

In order to succeed in an A.P. course, a student must be self-directed, highly disciplined and ready to commit time and energy to reach beyond high school standards of workload and performance.

Students earn criterion-referenced grades; that is, grades are determined solely on mastery of the concepts and skills taught in the A.P. curriculum. While variables such as effort and cooperation are always expected, they are not given consideration in the A.P. grading system, nor are extra-credit projects. Students must be in command of the prerequisite knowledge and skills contained in the course descriptions, and will not receive extra help to make up for deficits in academic background.

Ambitious, accomplished students are encouraged by department recommendation to enroll in A.P. courses. If a student does not have the department's recommendation, the student and his/her parents must meet with the department chairperson and the student's counselor. The purpose of the meeting is to clearly define the scope and depth of the course so that the student has all the information needed to make realistic choices for his/her academic program. Enrollment in an A.P. course is subject to availability and will not be completed until the department's recommendation is secured or the counseling meeting is held. In like manner, if the counselor determines that the number of A.P. courses the student has elected is a concern, the same procedure will be followed before the schedule of courses is completed.

Completion of the A.P. course requires preparation and sitting for the A. P. exam sponsored by the College Board in the spring. Students are also responsible for paying the A. P. Exam fee which will be approximately \$94 per exam for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Shared Decision Making Committee of North High School supports a differentiated curriculum in which the A.P. courses are designed to serve the needs of students with exceptional academic abilities and achievement, and the Shared Decision Making Committee has approved the regulations described herein to discourage enrollment in A. P. courses for any other reason.

Obviously, careful consideration must be given to the high level of challenge demanded by the A.P. program before enrolling.

District Policy for Advanced Placement Examinations:

The Great Neck Public Schools believe that an Advanced Placement exam is a culminating experience which follows a year of college-level work in an AP class which has College Board approval for both its curriculum and instructor. Therefore, the Great Neck Public Schools will only register students for AP exams for which they have been enrolled in a corresponding AP course in their respective high schools.

This practice of requiring students to complete a year of college-level work in a College Board certified course of study before Great Neck will administer an Advanced Placement exam has been in place for more than a decade. Exceptions are extremely rare and have been approved only when truly extenuating circumstances exist; exceptions are NOT granted simply because a student has taken an exam preparation course outside of the District. Only the College Board may approve a school, its instructors, and its programs of study and, should an outside school meet these standards, it would be in a position to administer the AP examination.

For the 2018-2019 school year, requests for exceptions to this practice must be made in writing to [Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools Dr. Stephen Lando](#) by January 31, 2019. This date will be changed to September 30 beginning with the 2019-2020 school year so that enrollment in review courses (exclusive of enrollment in a corresponding Great Neck Advanced Placement course) is undertaken without an expectation of AP exam registration in the Great Neck Public Schools.

ACCELERATED GRADUATION

In general, high school students are not encouraged to complete the requirements for graduation prior to the end of the normal senior year. For most students, enrichment and variety in program are preferable to acceleration and early

graduation. For a very small number of students an alternate study or work experience may be more appropriate than the full senior year.

Those students who are interested in requesting consideration for early graduation should carefully discuss the matter with their parents and counselor. If, after a careful discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of this option, the student and his or her parents still wish to request it, they must receive the permission of the Principal and the Superintendent before April 15.

Those few students who are approved for one full year acceleration must obtain written approval of both the English and Social Studies Chairpersons for the manner in which they propose to meet graduation requirements in these subject areas.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE

Specific entrance requirements are determined by each individual college--they vary considerably. There are some colleges where no particular pattern of high school subjects is required and other colleges where all entrance units are prescribed.

As soon as you become interested in a college, you should check requirements on that college's website. Students must accept this responsibility. Catalogues and reference books are available in the Guidance Center as well as web-based search programs that can be very useful.

Colleges would like all applicants to have had the maximum possible high school program appropriate to their abilities and interests. Generally, they stress courses in English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and Foreign Language.

The Guidance Department posts information on the website which will keep you updated about SAT testing, College Application procedures and the availability of various scholarships and other sources of financial aid. Students are encouraged to consult with their counselors on the very important process of college selection.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

We urge you to consider participation in our co-curricular program as part of your overall involvement with our school. These activities usually meet once a week after regular school day between 2:45 and 5:00 p.m. All clubs and activities are open to all students with only a few requiring an audition or tryout.

Extensive listing of student activities, meeting places, day and time of meetings, sponsors, etc., are available in the office of the Assistant Principal and will be circulated each year early in the fall semester. A listing follows on the next page.

