



# An Introduction to the AP Capstone™ Program

Making the Choice between  
AP Seminar and AP Language

## HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

# Welcome

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

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

To complement the suite of AP courses at our school, we are proud to introduce a new program at our school in Fall 2016:

APCapstone™



# What We' ll Cover

## Topic

### Background on Advanced Placement®

- Advanced Placement: The Basics
- Our AP Courses
- AP®: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

### What is the AP Capstone™ Program?

- Program Overview
- The Courses: AP Seminar & AP Research
- Exam Fees

### AP Capstone Program: The Benefits and the Challenges

- Benefits and Student Testimonials
- Contrast with AP Language

### Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

- AP Seminar or AP Language in 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- Program Contact Information

### Questions and Answers

# Our AP<sup>®</sup> Courses

**AP Capstone: AP Seminar: new to HHS – starting Fall 2016**

*AP Research - starting Fall 2017*

- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1
- **World languages:** French Language and Culture, Italian Language and Culture, Latin, Spanish Language and Culture
- **Arts:** Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Music Theory



# What is the AP Capstone Program?



# Introducing - AP Capstone

**AP**Capstone™ is an innovative program that helps you stand out in the college admissions process by developing the critical skills needed to succeed in college and in your future career.

Emphasizes Critical Skills Needed  
for College & Beyond

Complements the in-depth  
subject-matter study in AP

Two new courses—**AP Seminar** and **AP Research**—allow students to immerse themselves in topics that matter to them, while they develop the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges seek in their applicants.

# The Pinnacle of Distinction – AP Capstone Diploma™

This challenging program helps students deepen their passion for learning, gives them greater confidence in your academic skills, and a broader perspective on their world.

**AP Capstone Diploma™**

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma**.

## AP SEMINAR (Year 1)

Team Project & Presentation

Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation

End-of-Course Exam

## AP RESEARCH (Year 2)

Academic Paper

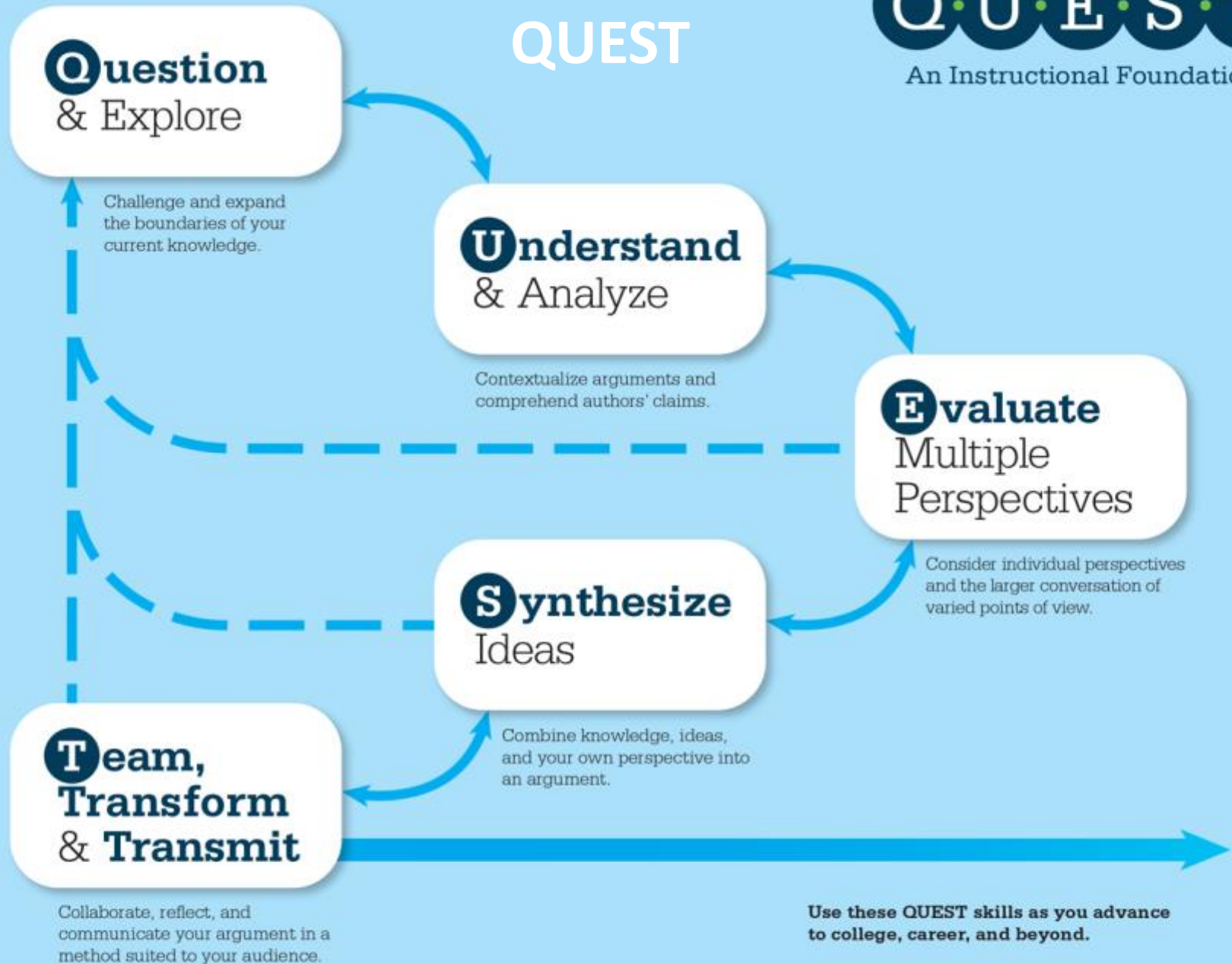
Presentation & Oral Defense

**4 AP COURSES & EXAMS**  
(Taken at any point throughout high school)

## AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research will receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™**

# QUEST





# AP Seminar

*Typically taken in grade 10 or 11.*

## Students learn how to:

- Investigate real-world topics from multiple perspectives
- Carefully analyze information, write evidence-based arguments and effectively communicate them
- Work independently and with a team to research a topic, develop a written report and deliver a presentation

### Example Topics

Democracy  
Education  
Environment  
Revolution  
Technology  
Sustainability

## Exam score based on:

1. Team Project & Presentation
  - 25%
2. Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation
  - 35%
3. End-of-Course Exam
  - 40%



*Teachers & Students select and study 2-4 topics.*

# AP Research

*AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.*

## Students learn how to:

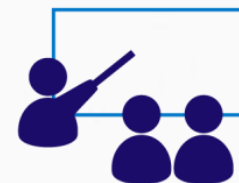
- Design, plan, and conduct a year-long mentored, research-based investigation
- Apply research methods and practices to address a real-world topic selected by the student
- Write a college-level research paper
- Present and orally defend research findings and methodology

## Exam score based on:

1. Academic Paper  
(4,000 - 5,000 words)
  - 75%



2. Presentation and Oral Defense
  - 25%



# AP<sup>®</sup> Capstone Exam Fees

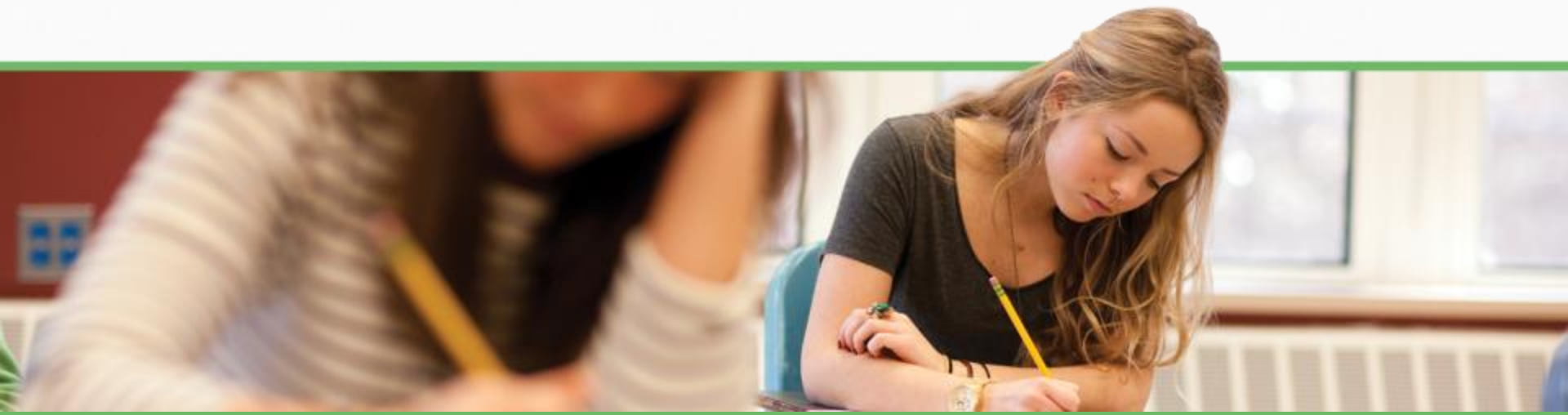
- The 2016-17 exam fees for AP Seminar and AP Research are \$141 each.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
  - The College Board offers exam fee reductions for eligible students with financial need.
  - *Information about additional fee assistance provided by our district/school can be found through the guidance department office*



# AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

# AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Earn Distinction** – Stand out in the college admission process and have the opportunity to earn valuable college credit or placement
- **Acquire Critical Skills** – Students acquire challenging college-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by colleges
- **Choose what to study** – Students choose their own research topic and study issues and topics of interest and importance to them



# What Students are saying about AP Capstone

“We get a topic, and we dive deep into it, looking at not just the facts but different perspectives, which ones are strongest, which ones are missing something... [It]...teaches us to learn and think, and prepares us for college and life in a way that no other class does...”  
—Senior, North Central High School, Spokane, WA

“The expectations in the [AP Seminar] course are a lot higher. We are expected to be more responsible and more attentive about what is going on in the world around us.”  
—Sophomore, N. Miami Beach High School, Miami, FL

“[In college interviews,] it gives you something to talk about. I can be really specific and colleges see that you have an interest.”  
—Senior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY

“[I’ve gained] confidence... I speak more now. In this environment your opinion is needed. You feel part of a family.”  
—Junior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY





# What Colleges are saying about AP Capstone

“At the University of Washington, we would be very interested in enrolling students who have distinguished themselves through the AP Capstone program.”

*Phillip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of Washington*

“AP Seminar and AP Research are terrific classes that prepare students to think in non-formulaic ways.”

*Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

“AP Capstone provides more of the learning students will need for success in college and beyond: effective communication, original research, collaboration, and critical thinking.

*Ken O'Donnell, Senior Director of Student Engagement, California State University*



Below are some of the 140+ colleges that have endorsed AP Capstone for its challenging interdisciplinary curricula. Also, over 100 colleges have developed credit policies – a few are below outlined in green.



Visit [www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone) for the latest list of colleges with credit policies for AP Seminar and/or AP Research.



# AP Language And Composition

# AP Choice for English Credit in 11<sup>th</sup> grade

The **AP English Language and Composition** course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts.

Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices.

Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical time periods.

# AP Choice for English Credit in 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Unlike other English courses, AP Language and Composition focuses primarily on nonfiction pieces. You will examine the writing of:

- ❖ Autobiographers
- ❖ Biographers
- ❖ Historians
- ❖ Critics
- ❖ Essayists
- ❖ Political writers
- ❖ \*Students may also examine visual rhetoric in the form of political cartoons



# Students should take AP Language and Composition if...

- ☐ They are deeply committed to their success in the English classroom
- ☐ They are prepared to read on a consistent basis
- ☐ They are interested in reading and analyzing non-fiction
- ☐ They are able to take and use constructive criticism from the teacher
- ☐ They are willing to have and complete homework 2-4 nights each the week
- ☐ They are ready to put aside project-based work and focus themselves on improving their writing skills
- ☐ They want to improve their academic vocabulary
- ☐ They have a familiarity with and an understanding of grammar rules
- ☐ They participate regularly in activities and discussions

# AP Language and Composition

## Students will learn how to:

- ☐ Critically analyze multiple non-fiction pieces for purpose
- ☐ Analyze effective and ineffective rhetoric in speeches and in writing
- ☐ Craft thorough and intellectual arguments
- ☐ Synthesize multiple sources to support argumentation
- ☐ Analyze tone, diction, imagery and structure for an speaker's purpose
- ☐ Discuss the writings of political and historical figures
- ☐ Identify logical fallacies and their impact on argumentation
- ☐ Improve their debate skills



# AP Language and Composition Exam

## Format of Assessment

Exam Price : \$92

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Section I: Multiple Choice: 52–55 Questions | 60 Minutes | 45% of Exam Score

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- Includes excerpts from several non-fiction texts
- Each excerpt is accompanied by several multiple-choice questions

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Section II: Free Response: 3 Prompts | 2 Hours 15 Minutes | 55% of Exam Score

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- 15 minutes for reading source materials for the synthesis prompt (in the free-response section)
- 120 minutes to write essay responses to the three free-response prompts

A horizontal green banner with a semi-transparent overlay of a photograph showing three students (two girls and one boy) looking down and smiling, possibly at a book or a device. The text is centered in white.

## Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

# AP Capstone: Start the Conversation

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

## Is AP Capstone right for me?

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

- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?
- Do I enjoy challenging myself to think in new ways?
- Do I like to collaborate and learn from others?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

- May I speak with a teacher familiar with AP Capstone?
- How will the courses be structured in the school schedule?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP Capstone?

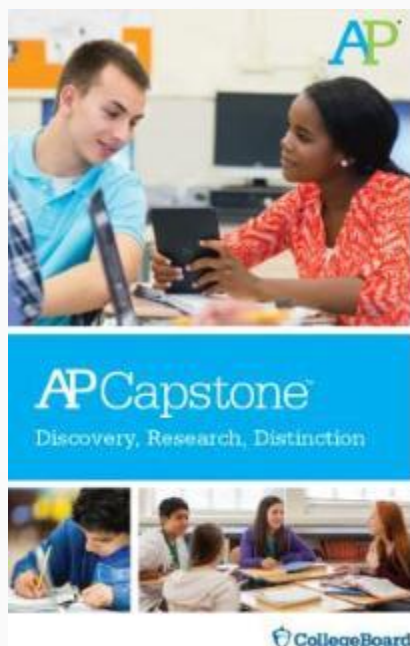
## What steps do I need to take?

- Go online and read the AP Capstone brochure to find out more
- Find out your school's enrollment deadline and sign up!



# Additional Information about AP Capstone

## The AP Capstone Brochure



## The AP Capstone Website



[www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone)

## AP Students – Course Information



[apstudent.collegeboard.org](http://apstudent.collegeboard.org)

Direct questions and concerns to:

**AP Capstone – Humanities chair:**

[jleavy@hufsd.edu](mailto:jleavy@hufsd.edu)

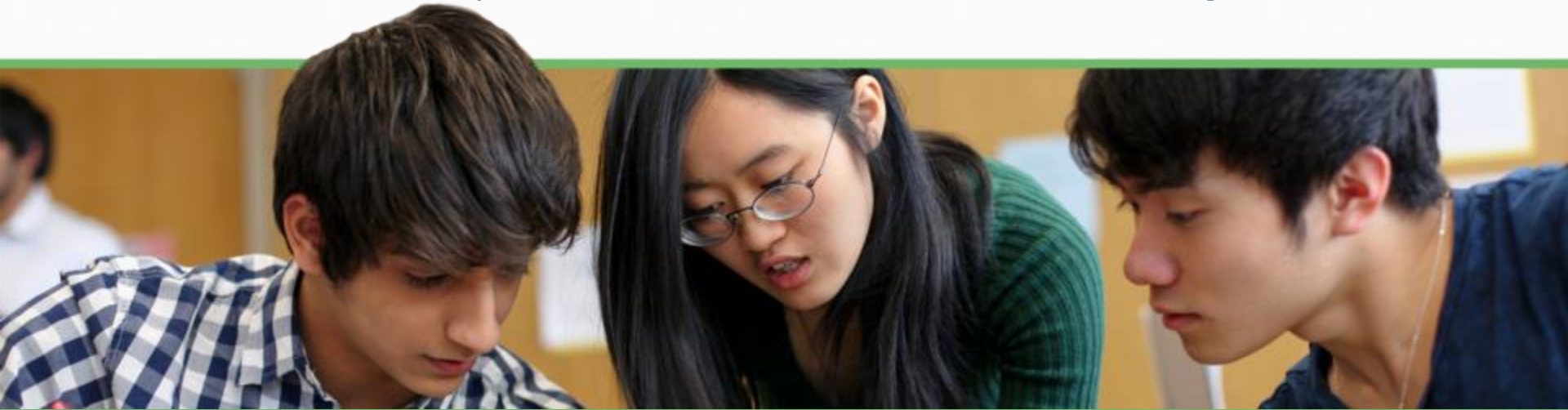
**Your guidance counselor**



# Background and Further Information on Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>

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

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure 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



# AP<sup>®</sup> at **Huntington High School**

- 780+ exams taken last year.
- AP Scholars
  - AP Scholars demonstrate superior college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. They receive an award certificate, and this achievement is acknowledged on any AP score report that is sent to colleges the following fall.
- Recent graduates consistently remark about how taking AP courses and exams benefit them in college.