



200 N. ROSELLE ROAD • SCHAUMBURG, IL 60194
(847) 885-3230 • FAX (847) 885-3354
www.schaumburgchristian.com

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Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that **Schaumburg Christian School will be offering Advanced Placement courses to our high school students beginning next school year.** Advanced Placement courses will provide an exciting opportunity for our students to complete college level courses and even earn college credit while in high school.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are the most challenging courses that can be taken in high school because they are taught at the college level, and success in an AP course is a sure sign that a student is ready for the academic rigors of college. Students seeking entrance into college may significantly enhance their profile by being successful in AP courses. In addition, earning college credit during high school can lower college tuition costs by reducing the number of college courses required.

SCS currently offers regular college preparatory courses as well as the more challenging “Honors” level courses in all of the core high school subjects. By adding AP courses to our curriculum, we will give our students the opportunity to enroll in the most challenging courses that are available to high school students.

Advanced Placement courses will be the most recent of many enhancements which have been made to the excellent academic program at SCS. Within the last three years we have added the following to our curriculum: two levels of 5th and 6th grade math (regular and accelerated); two levels of 7th and 8th grade math (regular and accelerated); two levels of 7th and 8th grade English (regular and accelerated); Honors level courses in all 9th-12th grade English, math, science and history courses; over 20 different foreign languages through Rosetta Stone for high school credit; and now, Advanced Placement courses are being offered in our high school curriculum. We are excited about the many improvements, and we will continue to strive to make Schaumburg Christian School the best school for the academic needs of your child.

For more information about our Advanced Placement courses and a list of FAQ's, please visit our school website at <http://www.schaumburgchristian.com/>

Thank you for the opportunity to partner together with you in the education of your child. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Mark McVey
Associate Administrator

Advanced Placement FAQ's

What is an AP course?

AP courses are sponsored by the College Board. The content of the courses are considered to be equivalent to that of an undergraduate college course.

Who will be teaching the AP courses?

The courses will be taught by Schaumburg Christian School teachers during the regular school day.

How difficult are AP courses

AP courses are the most difficult courses that can be taken in high school. The level of work is comparable to an undergraduate college course, and AP courses require a substantial amount of work outside of class. Students should have the ability to read large portions of material and retain the information, memorize significant amounts of information, engage in analytical thinking skills, and be able to demonstrate critical thinking by writing effectively and persuasively.

What is the difference between Honors courses and AP courses?

AP courses are significantly more rigorous and challenging than even Honors level courses. Students must be prepared to commit a substantial amount of time and effort in order to be successful in an AP course. Honors courses and AP courses both award an extra point on a student's GPA, but AP courses are considerably more challenging and offer the possibility of earning college credit.

How many AP courses will SCS be offering?

For the 2012-2013 school year we plan to offer AP Literature, AP Calculus, and AP Physics. We are also making plans to add AP United States History, AP World History, and AP Grammar in the near future.

How does a student earn college credit?

A standardized test will be administered at the end of each course. Nearly all 4-year colleges will issue credit for the course or award advanced placement if a student successfully passes the standardized exam. Note: acceptance of college credit is solely determined by the college, and colleges vary in what scores they will accept. You should check with each college you are considering so that you know how they handle AP credit.

Do AP courses also provide credit toward high school graduation?

Yes. Students in AP courses will be issued quarterly grades at SCS and will earn credit toward their high school graduation requirements.

How will AP courses affect a student's high school Grade Point Average?

Just like Honors courses, AP courses add an extra point on a student's GPA for the grade in that class.

Advanced Placement FAQ's continued

Is there any additional cost?

There are no additional costs for the course, but there is an \$87 fee that must be paid to the College Board for each exam that a student takes.

Which students can enroll in AP courses?

In the 2012-2011 school year, AP Courses will be open to 11th and 12th grade students. The following year, courses will also be available to students in 10th grade. Students will need to have earned at least a B in an accelerated or Honors level course in the particular subject area to be eligible for the AP course. Parents, teachers and students should be in agreement that the student is capable of being successful in a rigorous AP course. The student must be able and willing to commit extra time and effort for an AP course.

My child may not be able to be successful in AP courses. Will SCS still be offering regular level and Honors Level courses?

Yes. We realize that AP courses may not be a good option for many students. We will continue to offer regular level and Honors level courses in each core subject throughout our high school.