AP Courses - What are they?

Since 1955, the AP Program has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both while still in high school.

**Fast Facts:**

~ Each AP course is modeled on a comparable introductory college course in that subject.
~ Each course culminates in a standardized college-level assessment, or AP Exam, in May (taking exam is optional)

**Taking AP courses and exams can help students:**

~ **Stand out on college applications**
AP courses on a student’s transcript shows that they’ve challenged themselves with the most rigorous courses available to them.

~ **Earn college credit and/or skip introductory courses in college**
Most 4 year colleges and universities in the US grant students credit, advanced placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores

**Who Should Take AP?**

**ALL** students who are willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum should consider taking an AP course.
It is not just for honors level students
A variety of AP courses are taught across multiple departments
# AP Courses at NCHS - Something for EVERYbody

**English - Juniors & Seniors**
- English Language - Juniors
- English Literature - Seniors

**Math**
- Calculus AB - (After Pre-Calc)
- Calculus BC - (After Pre-Calc)
- Statistics - (After Algebra 2 or College Algebra)

**Science - Must take standard level Physics first**
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics C

**Social Studies - Juniors & Seniors**
- Psychology - (pre-req of standard Psychology first)
- Human Geography - (pre-req of standard Human Geo first)
- Government & Politics, U.S. - (meets Civics requirement)
- Comparative Government & Politics

**Art - Juniors & Seniors**
- Art 2-D Design - (take Adv. Art Studio 1 & 2 first)
- Art History

**Music - Juniors & Seniors**
- Music Theory

**Foreign Language -**
- French
- German
- Spanish

**Computer Science -**
- Computer Science A (JAVA) - (After Algebra 2)
- Computer Science Principles - (After Algebra 2)

**Must have enough students request the courses for them to be offered**
AP Exams - Getting the College Credit

To have a chance at earning college credit, students must take the optional AP exam for their AP course(s) in May. AP Exams assess knowledge and skills learned in the course.

Exam Scores:
~ Scored on a scale of 1 to 5
~ Many U.S. colleges offer credit for AP Exam scores of 3 or higher (some ask for 4 or higher)
~ State schools in IL are required to award college credit for a score of 3 or higher
~ Check the university/colleges AP score policy to know (AP website has a link to view the policies at most colleges)

Taking Exams:
~ AP Exams are given on the same day, at the same time across the nation
~ NCHS holds exams every May at Heartland Community College and Eastview Church
~ Students must register & PAY for each AP exam they want to take (optional to take the exam)
~ Exam fees are $100/exam (Free/Reduced lunch students get large discount)
~ Registration for yearlong and semester 1 AP courses is completed by end of October for exams happening in May!
~ Registration for semester 2 only AP courses (select Soc. Stud. courses) is completed by end of February.