

Advanced Placement and Pre-Advanced Placement Courses

VIDOR HIGH SCHOOL

ADVANCED PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION

- ✘ The AP Program currently offers more than 30 courses across multiple subject areas.
- ✘ Program of college courses and exams for secondary school students which have been administered nationally since 1955 by the College Board
- ✘ AP courses make it possible for academically talented high school students to upgrade the quality and increase the challenge of their studies
- ✘ AP courses allow students to pursue college-level studies and earn college credit through AP exams while still in high school.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

- ✘ The AP Examinations are administered each year in May and represent the culmination of college-level work in a given discipline in a secondary school setting.
- ✘ The exams are scored on a scale of 1 – 5. Many colleges give advanced standing and/or credit to students earning a 3 or higher.
- ✘ To investigate a college's AP Policy, visit www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy

PRE-AP IS BASED ON TWO IMPORTANT PREMISES

- ✘ The first is the expectation that all students can perform well at rigorous academic levels. This expectation should be reflected in curriculum and instruction throughout the school such that all students are consistently being challenged to expand their knowledge and skills to the next level.
- ✘ The second important premise of Pre-AP is the belief that we can prepare every student for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and acquisition of knowledge as early as possible.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION

THE PURPOSE OF THE AP CONTRACT

- Vidor High School wishes to have a consistent set of expectations across all of the advanced placement or college level curriculum offered on campus.
- The goal of the AP contract is to ensure that students and parents understand the choice, commitment, level of work, and entrance and exit policies of the AP program.

**2015-2016 Vidor High School
Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP)/Advanced Placement (AP) Contract**

AP Goal: To provide an open opportunity for all students to participate in advanced learning experiences that are college preparatory or college equivalent.

Contractual Goal: The goal of the AP contract is to ensure that students and parents understand the choice, commitment, level of work, and entrance and exit policies of the AP program. Each student and parent must sign the AP contract before enrolling into the AP program.

Choice: The AP program is a choice open to all students. When students and parents choose the AP program, they are choosing, most of all, to commit to the time and level of academic preparation required to be successful in AP.

Commitment: Students must be committed to working in class, out of class, and during summer and holidays. Students will spend a significant amount of outside time preparing for class.

Level of Work: The choice to participate in Pre-AP or AP courses will require students to engage in higher level thinking. This choice will require meticulous attention to all course work as well. **Retest opportunities for failing grades on any exam/project are not permitted. Late work is not accepted in Pre-AP or AP courses.**

**Summer/
Fall Assignments:** Pre-AP or AP Program students may be required to complete summer assignments in preparation for upcoming Pre-AP or AP courses.

Exams: All students will be encouraged and expected to take the appropriate AP exams for the course(s) in which they are enrolled. **All students in AP English III and AP US History for the 2015-16 school year are required to take the appropriate exam.** College Board price for 2014-2015 is \$91 for a scheduled test (for planning purposes only, price subject to change). In the event that the test must be rescheduled to a later designated date, an additional \$45.00 late testing fee may apply plus the cost of returning the original test. A \$15 deposit is due at the end of the second week of school. Free or Reduced Lunch Program participants will pay a reduced price for the test (\$53 last year). Any students completing an AP test will receive a 100 for their Semester Exam in the correlating course. Also, if any student achieves a score of 3 or higher on an exam he/she will receive a refund for the price of the exam.

Exiting AP: Students may exit any time within the first two (2) weeks of school. After the first two weeks of school, a student who requests to exit the program will be reviewed by a committee. Academic dishonesty may result in removal from the program at the discretion of the review committee. Exiting the program could result in a loss of advanced credit and/or denial of participation in Pre-AP or AP in the future.

Pre-AP and AP offer an excellent opportunity for students who want the challenge and rigor of high school courses intended to expose students to college level work. The opportunity and choice to participate in Pre-AP and AP is contingent upon adherence to this contract. Failure to return the contract by May 30, 2015 may result in removal from Pre-AP or AP courses.

I understand the requirements for the AP program and agree to allow _____ to undertake this rigorous commitment. Print student's name

Parent's signature Date

Student's signature Date

**Students in need of financial assistance to pay for the exam should see their grade level counselor.*

THE IMPACT OF THE AP CONTRACT – THE CLASSROOM

- ✘ The College Board expects a rigorous level of instruction and curriculum within the AP and Pre-AP courses.
- ✘ Late work is not accepted in AP or Pre-AP courses. However, students will still be allowed to make up any work missed due to an excused absence
- ✘ Students will not have the opportunity to retest a failing grade on an in class test. Exceptions to this will be rare.

THE IMPACT OF THE CONTRACT – THE EXAM

- ✘ All students will be encouraged and expected to take the appropriate AP exams for the course(s) in which they are enrolled. A \$15 deposit is due at the end of the second week of school.
- ✘ All students in AP English III and AP US History for the 2015-16 school year are required to take the appropriate exam.
- ✘ Any students completing an AP test will receive a 100 for their Semester Exam in the correlating course.
- ✘ Any student achieving a score of 3 or higher on an exam will receive a refund for the price of the exam.

EXITING THE AP PROGRAM

- ✘ Students may exit any time within the first two (2) weeks of school.
- ✘ After the first two weeks of school, a student who requests to exit the program will be reviewed by a committee. The committee will usually consist of the grade level counselor, assistant principal and the teacher. The parent/guardian and student will most likely be required to meet with the committee.
- ✘ Exiting the program could result in a loss of advanced credit and/or denial of participation in Pre-AP or AP in the future.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ✘ If my child takes an AP or Pre-AP course in one subject area, is he/she required to take an AP or Pre-AP course in all subject areas?
 - + No, students have the choice to participate in individual courses and are not required to take any advanced course they do not wish to be a part of.
- ✘ What if an entire class of students or the majority of the class fails a test?
 - + If a large majority of the class or the entire class fails to pass an in class test, the teacher is expected to review or re-teach the material and provide a second test.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ✘ What if I am unable to pay for the AP exam(s)?
 - + We are working to secure funds that will help those families or students in need of financial assistance for exam payments. A student will not be denied participation in the program due to a financial burden.
- ✘ Will there be a course offered that is more rigorous than the grade level course but not as rigorous as AP?
 - + We hope to have “Honors” courses for many of our subject areas. These courses would not earn the same weighted grade points as an AP course but would allow students the opportunity to retest. The creation of these courses will be dependent upon the demand and the needs of the students.