

What it takes to take AP courses

Character

Curiosity, creativity and commitment are key ingredients for success in AP courses.

Academic Preparation

You don't need to be top of your class to be an AP student, but you'll want to be prepared for the AP course you choose.

Motivation

You show your determination when you do the things that matter to you

Grading System

The process and standards for setting AP grades remain the same so that the merit of AP grades is consistent over time. Each exam is scored on the following five-point scale:

5 - EXTREMELY WELL QUALIFIED

4 - WELL QUALIFIED

3 - QUALIFIED

2 - POSSIBLY QUALIFIED

1 - NO RECOMMENDATION

What are AP courses Like

AP courses typically demand more of students than regular or honors courses.

- ◆ Classes tend to be fast-paced and cover more material than typical high school classes.
- ◆ More time, inside and outside of the classroom, is required to complete lessons, assignments and homework.
- ◆ AP teachers expect their students to think critically, analyze and synthesize facts and data, weigh competing perspectives, and write clearly and persuasively.

Results

are sent to each student's home, high school and designated college(s) in July. While taking the exam, students indicate if they would like a college to receive their grades. Students also have the option of canceling or withholding a grade until June 15 of their testing year.



For more information
Contact your child's counselor:

La Joya High School
580-5100

Palmview High School
519-5779

Juarez Lincoln High School
519-4150

Jimmy Carter Early College High School
584-4842

Thelma R. Salinas Early College High School
580-5908

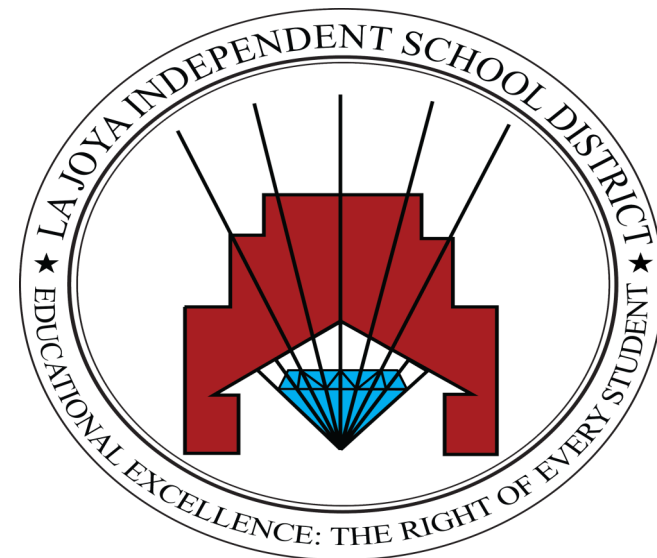
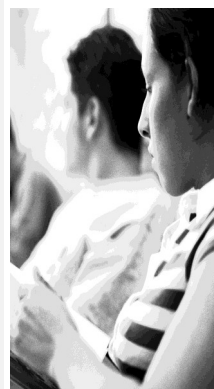
The Benefits of AP Courses

AP courses can be challenging, but it's work that pays off.

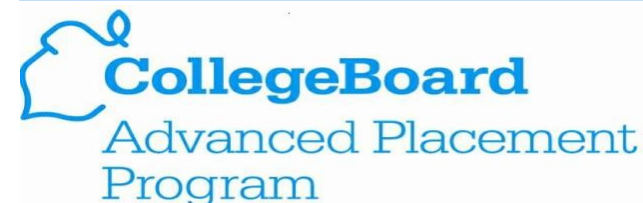
•AP courses are often the most interesting and fulfilling courses a student takes in high school.

•AP teachers are among the most prepared, dedicated, and inspiring teachers at their schools.

•Students develop confidence, and learn the study habits and time management skills essential for success in college.



La Joya I.S.D.
Advanced Academic Services
Advanced Placement Courses
Parent Information



Sandra A. Villarreal,
Advanced Academic Services Coordinator
201 E. Expressway 83
La Joya, Texas 78560
Phone: (956) 323-2195



What is Advanced Placement (AP)?

AP provides students with an opportunity for learning that goes beyond just facts and figures. The rich course material, classroom discussions and demanding assignments typical of AP courses will help your child develop the content mastery and critical thinking skills expected of college students. What's more, by participating in AP, your child has the opportunity to earn college credit and to stand out in the college admission process.

Support your child this year By:

- Attend Parent meetings in your child's campus to get information on AP courses, benefits, and exam dates. Designate specific areas for homework and studying
 - Remind your child to prioritize classes, activities and work commitments
 - Recommend that your child form a study group
 - Review high school graduation requirements with your child
 - Review Student /Parent bulletin from the College Board which is designed to give parents and your child information about participating in AP and taking AP Exams.
 - Review important dates and other information related to the exam administration.
- As the parent or guardian of an AP student, you can take pride in the fact that your child is participating in a challenging academic program.



...and Save Money

•Students who take five years or more to graduate can spend \$8,000-\$27,000 for each additional year in college.

•The typical college cost per year for a four-year public

institution is \$8,142 for in-state students and \$19,670 for out-of-state students.*

•Students attending private institutions might expect to incur \$27,389 for each additional year it takes to earn a bachelor's degree.*

AP Q&A's

What AP classes are available to your child?

Your child must check with their school counselor to find out which AP classes are offered on their campus. In Texas, the five AP exams taken by the most students are, in order: English Language and Composition; United States History; English Literature and Composition; World History; and Spanish Language.

Are AP classes hard?

AP classes are harder than a standard academic class. AP classes challenge students to think critically about subjects. Rich course material, in-depth classroom discussions and demanding assignments are typical for an AP class. Many students take pre-AP classes during their freshman and sophomore years in preparation for AP classes.

Why should your child take an AP class?

Besides challenging himself/herself academically, your child may be able to earn additional weights or points toward their grade point average for each AP class taken. A higher grade point average and a strong course load makes your child an attractive candidate to colleges. Strong performance in an AP class can also save you money on your college tuition bill.

If your child take an AP class, do they have to take the AP exam?

If your child is interested in earning college credit for the course, then s/he must take the AP exam. The State of Texas provides financial incentives to lower the cost of the exams for Texas students.

What grade does your child need to make on the AP exam in order to earn college credit?

Students can earn a score of one to five on each exam. Many colleges and universities will award college credit if you earn a score of three or higher on the test. At the state's flagship universities, scores of four or five are required for some courses before credit will be provided.

AP Exams:

AP Exams are rigorous, multiple-component tests that are administered at high schools each May. High school students can earn college credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores. Each AP Exam has a corresponding AP course and provides a **standardized measure** of what students have learned in the AP classroom.

AP Exams are an essential part of the AP course experience, and help students:

- ◆ Stand out in the admission process
- ◆ Earn academic scholarships and awards from colleges and universities
- ◆ Experience college-level academics now, while they're still in high school
- ◆ Save time and money once they get to college, providing them with more study options and allowing them to move directly into upper-level courses in their field of interest

AP Course offerings:

Biology AP.

Chemistry AP

English Language and Comp. AP

English Literature and Composition AP

Environmental Science AP

Government AP

Spanish 6 AP Lang.

Spanish 7 AP Lit.

Statistics AP

US History AP

World History AP

World Geography AP

Physics B AP

Physics C AP

Calculus AB AP

Calculus BC AP

Studio Art -Drawing AP

Studio Art 2-D Design AP

Macroeconomics AP



*Course offerings contingent on student enrollment in each of the respective high school campuses.