



## SPECIAL EDITION: The Advanced Placement Program® (AP®)

### What is The Advanced Placement Program® (AP®)?

The Advanced Placement Program® enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students earning a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible to receive college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college. The AP course and exam development results from collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

### The Brief History of the Advanced Placement Program

In order to understand the inception of the Advanced Placement Program, you must look at education history. In post-World War II United States, the gap between secondary education and college continued to widen. Responding to the need to close the gap, the Ford Foundation created what is known as the Fund for the Advancement of Education. This organization sponsored two studies which led to the creation of a pilot program, launched in 1952, that introduced advanced courses in 11 initial subjects to encourage high school seniors to engage in college level work and achievement exams that were rigorous enough to use as a basis for granting college credit. By 1955, the program was under way and the College Board was asked to step in to take over the administration of the program. At that point, it became known as the College Board Advanced Placement Program.

In the 1960s, the College Board began long term commitment for teacher training. During the 1970s and 1980s, many schools began adding AP to their course offerings. In the 1980s and 1990s, the College Board reached out to include minority and low-income students in AP classes. There are more than 30 courses listed for AP, and in 2006, an AP Chinese Language and Culture course was slated to be added to the list. As of 2003, there were more than one millions students taking over 1.74 million end of course AP exams.

Source: [http://www.collegeboard.com/prod\\_downloads/about/news\\_info/ap/ap\\_history\\_english.pdf](http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/about/news_info/ap/ap_history_english.pdf)

### What is the history of the AP program at Colquitt County High School?

According to historical records at the Colquitt County Board of Education, the AP program at Colquitt County High School can be traced back to at least 1987. The AP program may have been offered prior to this year, but no documents were still on file at the Board Office before 1987. The 1987 AP courses offered were AP English, with 25 students, AP American History, 17 students, and Mathematics: Calculus AB with 15 students. By 1990, AP Economics and Calculus BC were added to the course offerings, but in that year, only one student was listed as taking the AP test for each of those courses. In 1991, AP Micro Economics had been added, with AP Macro Economics added the following year. Also in 1991, AP

American History appears to have undergone a course name change; records indicate it was now referred to as AP US History. In 1996, AP Physics, AP Chemistry and AP Biology were listed for the first time, with 7, 2, and 3 students listed to take the exams. Students continued to take the courses of AP US History, AP Calculus, and AP English Literature, but by 1999, AP English Literature appears to have dropped down to a mere two students listed as test takers. Oddly, in 2000, AP English Literature had no recorded test takers, but by 2001, the enrollment does appear to have returned to 6 students. In 2002, AP Environmental was added to course offerings. In 2005, AP Psychology and AP Statistics were included. In 2007, AP European History was listed as a course offering. AP Language made its first appearance in the records in 2008 with 28 students listed. AP Spanish Language, with 18 students, and AP World History, with 8 students, made their first entry in the records in 2009. In 2011, AP Computer Science and AP Music History had at least one student each enrolled in those courses. For the first time in 2014, AP Spanish Literature was listed as a course offering here at CCHS.

An interesting historical note about record keeping is that from 1987 to 2003, all AP course test orders were placed on carbon copy order forms and mailed in using the United States Postal Service. However, in 2004, all of Colquitt County's AP tests ordering records were completed online and continue to be submitted electronically.

### **About our Teachers:**

Many of our teachers at CCHS are certified in AP, some hold more than one certification area.

World Languages: In the World Languages Department, there are 6 Spanish teachers, 1 Latin teacher, and 1 American Sign Language teacher. There are 3 AP Certified teachers in this department-- 1 certified in AP Spanish Language, 1 certified in AP Spanish Literature and 1 certified in AP Latin.

Mathematics: There are 17 teachers in the Math Department with 4 AP certified instructors. Dana Cook is certified in both AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC.

Science: There are 12 teachers in the Science Department with six of them AP certified. Tracy Willis is certified in both AP Biology and Environmental Science. Vance Hurst is certified in Physics 1, 2, and C (Mechanics) and C (Electricity and Magnetism).

ELA: There are 17 teachers in the English & Language Arts Department. There are 4 teachers certified in AP English Literature and 3 teachers certified in AP Language. Additionally, Kelly Walker and Paul Waite are certified in both AP English Literature and AP Language.

History: There are 12 teachers in the History Department with 2 teachers certified in AP European History, 1 teacher certified in AP Macro/Micro Economics, 1 teacher certified in AP US History, and 2 teachers certified in AP World History.