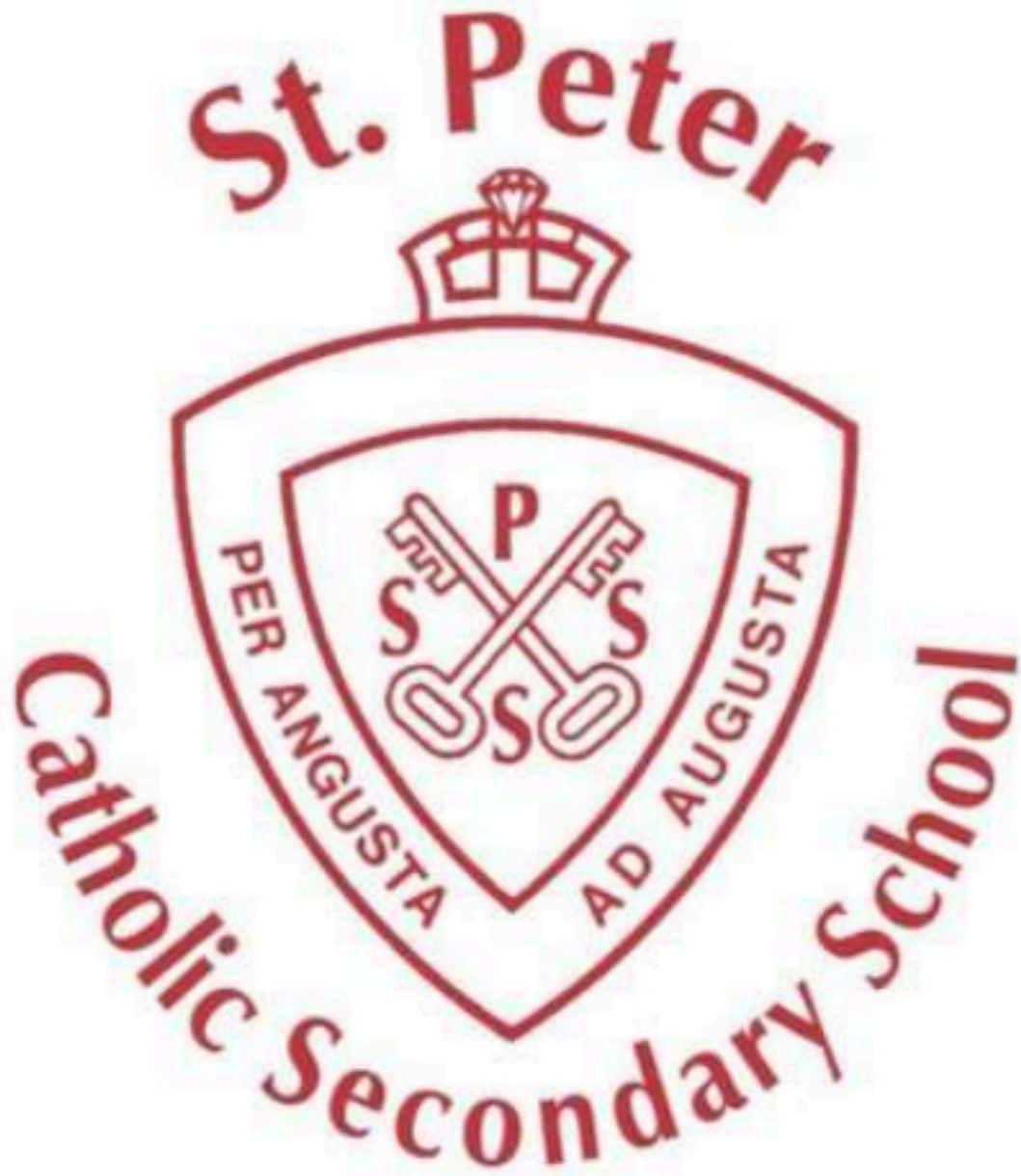




Advanced Placement Program

1. The Advanced Placement Program (AP)

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue university level studies while still in high school. Students are provided with an opportunity to show their mastery of the skills and material examined during the course by writing an AP exam. AP exams are developed and administered by the College Board, which is also responsible for the SAT exam.

2. The Rationale for Providing an Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement Program is designed to provide highly motivated students with:

- an enriched academic experience,
- a learning experience which more closely mirrors the rigours associated with post-secondary studies,
- the chance to study a subject that they are passionate about in a stimulating environment with other highly motivated students,
- opportunities to explore a subject in greater depth and to refine skills that will be critically important to successful in post-secondary institutions, - an advantage over their peers when entering a program of study after high school,
- the option of possibly earning an academic credit in a post-secondary institute.

3. Pre-Advanced Placement Courses

Each Pre-Advanced Placement Course covers the breadth of information, skills and assignments found in the corresponding academic course. Pre-AP students take these demanding and challenging courses in order to experience learning that more closely resembles the environment at post-secondary institutes. Students who participate in the program hone their skills in reasoning, analysis, synthesis and understanding. Such training helps them reach their academic potential. These courses also help prepare student for the rigorous and challenging Advanced Placement Exam which happens in the Spring of Grade 12.

4. The AP Course Workload

As the AP Program is academically rigorous, leading to an international examination, students are required to consider the following before applying:

- high academic demands of the program
- the increased pace needed to cover the content
- their involvement in extracurricular activities and other out-of-school commitments

5. Impact on Grades for Students Participating in AP Courses

The AP program operates on the belief that students should not be penalized for taking advanced courses. Students' marks in these courses are comparable to what they would be receiving if they were in the mainstream academic classes. Some students do choose to leave the program before completion and analysis of their marks has consistently confirmed the premise that AP students are not assessed unfairly compared to their peers.

6. AP Courses and the College Board Examination

The College Board administers the AP Program. Teachers are provided with course guidelines and other supports including workshops and subject specific publications. These supporting materials enhance the teaching and ensure content examined aligns with the requirements.

The AP exam that is administered at the school in the spring of grade 12 is developed each year by the College Board. AP examinations seek to assess how well a student has mastered the concepts and techniques of the subject. They are based on the outlines provided in the College Board's AP course descriptions and graded on a five point scale.

Level 5 - Extremely Well Qualified

Level 4 – Well Qualified

Level 3 – Qualified

Level 2 – Possibly Qualified

Level 1 – Not Qualified

All students receive a copy of their score and the results are also available to the classroom teacher. At a student's request the College Board will email a transcript of the student's score on the AP exam to any post-secondary institution.

7. Costs Associated with the AP program

There is a fee associated with writing any Advanced Placement examination (This only occurs in the spring of grade 12). The fee fluctuates from year to year and is set by the College Board but students should expect a fee between \$120 - \$150 per exam.

8. Application at a Later Date

Students showing potential can apply to gain entrance into the AP program following grade 9 or 10. Students transferring to St. Peter Catholic Secondary School can also apply to enter the program.

9. Recognition by Universities and Colleges

Individual Universities determine if they will offer credit for AP scores, and what level is required to achieve credit. Information can be found through the College Board website however it may be preferable to contact the institution directly.

10. Application Process

- i. Students must also complete a 300 word or less (typed) reflection where students comment on the following:
 - o Abilities in mathematics
 - o Reasons/motivations for wanting to take the AP course
 - o Enrichment opportunities that students have participated in (contests, camps, tutoring etc)
 - o Involvement in school clubs, teams, or activities (student council, office helper, math team etc)
 - o Awards or recognitions that you have received from your school or community (academic, leadership, music, contests, public speaking, ...)
- ii. Classroom teachers must complete a Confidential Teacher Referral Form