

# **Advanced Placement @ FCHS**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Advanced Placement?**

Fort Collins High offers 24 Advanced Placement courses. These courses follow a College Board approved curricula and provide students the opportunity to engage in college-level work while still in high school. By taking Advanced Placement exams at the end of the year, students can earn college credit. Taking Advanced Placement courses prepares students for the rigor of post-secondary academics.

### **What is the difference between Advanced Placement and IB (International Baccalaureate)?**

With IB, you are either in the program or you're not. In other words, if you are an IB student, the majority of your classes will be IB-designated courses. On the other hand, a student at FCHS can take one AP class or 20 AP classes throughout her/his high school career. With AP, you can choose from a menu of courses which content you are most interested in. If you love Science, you can take all the AP science classes and never take an AP class in Social Studies.

### **Which Advanced Placement classes can 9th graders take?**

You do not need to take Advanced Placement classes as a 9th grader. In fact, most 9th grade students do not take an Advanced Placement class, and many students don't take one until they are in 11th grade. However, some ninth grade students may be ready for the challenge of a college-level course. We do not recommend 9th graders taking more than ONE Advanced Placement class. We have seen students demonstrate success in the following classes with certain caveats. The course descriptions for these classes are linked on the AP page of this website.

AP Computer Science Principles: No math recommendation.

AP Computer Science A: Completion of or currently enrolled in Algebra 2

AP Human Geography: Advanced Reading level required

### **What about Pre-AP classes?**

Pre-AP is the designation for honors level courses at Fort Collins High and a great option for 9th graders to engage in a more independent and rigorous learning experience in preparation for Advanced Placement courses. There are no prerequisites; however, students should be

prepared for more independent/outside work and more in-depth content coverage. Please note that you do not need to take all Pre-AP classes. If you are more interested or stronger academically in English, just take Pre-AP English 9.

We offer these honors-level courses to 9th graders:

- Pre-AP Biology
- Pre-AP English 9
- Pre-AP World History: Ancient

## How many Pre-AP and AP classes should I take?

The beauty of our AP program is that students can take one class or more than one. Our goal for ninth graders is to have a successful transition into high school and to take advantage of all the opportunities available to them including participation in clubs, activities, sports, music, etc. Finding that balance between academics and extracurricular activities is crucial and is different for all students.

## Are there prerequisites to AP classes?

There are no prerequisites per se, for enrollment into AP or Pre-AP courses. There is no GPA requirement or teacher recommendation necessary to enroll in an AP class. For example, you can take AP Language & Composition as a junior without having taken Pre-AP English as a ninth or tenth grader. Of course, in order to be successful in AP Calculus, you will need to take Pre-Calculus or College Algebra and College Trigonometry. Likewise, in order to be successful in AP Spanish 5, you will need to complete Spanish 4.

**For more information, feel free to contact Dr. Jennifer Roth at [jroth@psdschools.org](mailto:jroth@psdschools.org).**