



**Wheaton High School**  
**The Academies**

Academy of Bioscience and Health Professions  
Academy of Information Technology  
Academy of Engineering  
Institute of Global and Cultural Studies

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Dear Wheaton Parent or Guardian,

October 14, 2011

Congratulations. Your son or daughter is currently enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course at Wheaton High School. AP provides students with an opportunity for learning. The rich course material, classroom discussions and demanding assignments typical of AP courses will help your child develop the knowledge and critical thinking skills expected of college students. More importantly, by participating in AP, your child has the opportunity to earn college credit and to stand out in the college admission process.

Advanced Placement courses are challenging and work intensive classes that require both hard work and dedication on the part of all students in class. These are college-level classes and are aligned to the Advanced Placement standards set forth by the College Board. The overall success of the program depends in large part on each student meeting their individual academic responsibilities. Success in AP will depend on your child's study skills, reading and writing abilities, motivation, time management and maturity. AP students must academically mature more quickly than other students. Often, some tears are involved with early assignments. **Self-discipline** is very important and is expected for all students taking the class.

How you can support your child this year:

- Continually give encouraging words to your child
  - your child
  - Many times students will come home frustrated because they are not scoring well on the exams. In most cases, your son or daughter is working hard - encourage them to keep their chin up.
- Provide academic support
  - Designate specific areas in your home for schoolwork and studying
  - Remind your child to prioritize classes, activities and work commitments
  - Recommend that your child form a study group

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. Thank you for all the support and encouragement you provide. I am a strong believer that education is a **team effort** and by working together, it is my hope that we can provide the best possible environment for meaningful learning and positive academic achievement. If you do have questions or concerns, feel free to first contact the AP teacher directly or me at [Jeanne\\_T\\_Salvado@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jeanne_T_Salvado@mcpsmd.org) or 301.929.2050. Below and in the following pages you will find a couple of parent resources.

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wheatonhs/departments/aphonors/>

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/ap-bulletin-students-parents-2011-12.pdf>

Sincerely,

Jeanne Salvado  
AP Coordinator

## Parents' Guide to AP Courses

A typical AP course will require an average of **five to seven hours** of homework each week. Multiply that by two or even three AP courses, plus other classes, and you can see that students have a lot that they could be doing at home.

### Provide academic support:

1. Designate specific areas in your home for schoolwork and studying -- I

- Remind your child to prioritize classes, activities and work commitments
- Recommend that your child form a study group
  - Help your son or daughter choose an academically focused group of students in their class and provide time and an area for them to work.

You may need to monitor them to be sure they are focused on their AP class.

- **Other tips and Important Information about the AP program: Quiz/Test Grades**
- Many of the tests and quizzes given in AP courses simulate the AP exams; students need this practice if we expect them to be successful on the exams.
- In most classes, if the students do their best on the exams and essays and do ALL of their homework, they will receive an acceptable grade (C or higher).
- **Grades and Colleges**
  - Because AP courses are so advanced and require so much effort from students, the AP courses are weighted on a 5.0 rather than a 4.0 scale, helping the students overall GPA. Example: if a student received a B on the semester report card, s/he would receive a 4.0 for that course.
  - Colleges want to see students taking AP courses and exams. Because there are so many students applying to colleges, admissions selection committees look for a variety of things:
    - Ordered by preference
      - AP course(s) with exam score of 3, 4, or 5
      - AP course(s) with exam score of 1 or 2
      - AP course(s) but no exam score
        - \*colleges often question why the student did not take the exam.
      - Honors classes
      - Regular classes
- **Course load/homework**
  - If a student tells you that s/he does not have any homework, quiz them yourself. Use their notes, notecards, or any other course material to quiz them on what they have learned. One simple technique is to ask your child to explain something to you. Then continue to ask, "Why? How? And then what happened/s?"
  - Keep yourself informed on what is going on by communicating via phone or email with the teacher. We will gladly share with you what we are currently learning and would be happy to advise you on how to help your student study.

\*Thank you for taking the time to learn how to support your student. We appreciate your efforts to help your student succeed!

<b>AP Course</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Phone</b>
AP Biology	<u>Ms. Sobieszczyk</u>	301.929.2217
AP Calculus AB/BC	<u>Ms. Schreckengost</u> <u>Mr. Scott</u>	301.929.2069
AP Chemistry	<u>Ms. Paul</u>	301.929.2074
AP Comp. Science	<u>Ms. Washburn</u>	301.929.2086
AP English Language	<u>Ms. Battle</u>	301.929.2077
AP English Literature	<u>Ms. Pederson-Coco</u>	301.929.2077
AP Environmental Science	<u>Ms. Mattox-Jones Nalley</u>	301.929.2074
AP European History	<u>Mr. Brooks</u>	301.929.2073
AP French	<u>Mr. Mensah</u>	301.929.2072
AP Government—US	<u>Mr. Zolkiewicz</u> <u>Ms Polischek</u>	301.929.2073
AP Physics	<u>Mr. O'Neil</u>	301.929.2074
AP Psychology	<u>Mr. Allen</u> <u>Mr. Shaffner</u>	301.929.2073
AP Spanish Language	<u>Ms. Keefe</u> <u>Ms. Alayon Thelmont</u>	301.929.2072
AP Spanish Literature	<u>Ms. Keefe</u>	301.929.2072
AP Statistics	<u>Ms. Schreckengost</u>	301.929.2069
AP US History	<u>Dr. Ryan</u> <u>Ms. Zolkiewicz</u>	301.929.2073
AP World History	<u>Mr. Shaffner</u>	301.929.2073

## **Wheaton Celebrates AP Scholars**

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take college level courses while still in high school and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both as a result. Wheaton High School offers sixteen AP courses. This past year 29 current or former Wheaton High School students have been recognized by the College Board for exceptional achievement on the college level Advanced Placement (AP) Program examinations that students take after finishing AP courses at Wheaton High School.

In total 29 students were recognized. Three students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP examinations taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more examinations. Four WHS students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP examinations taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more examinations. Twenty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing 3 or more AP examinations with grades of 3 or higher.

### **AP Scholar with Distinction**

Kadry, Omar A.  
Nguyen, Andy  
Wood, Jennifer J.

### **AP Scholar with Honor**

Correia, Safiya N.  
Nguyen, Quang  
Ucanay, Iris D.  
Yuen, Leanne

### **AP Scholar Award**

Alberto, Chatty L.  
Assayag, Miriam  
Carranza, Michael S.  
Castillo, Brenda E.  
Deke, Philip  
Doka, Halima N.  
Gazan, Dolma L.  
Gonzales, Grace S.  
Gutierrez, Monica E.  
Melgar, Roberto C.  
Moreno, Veronica L.  
Nguyen, Nhi H.  
Omotosho, Babatunde O.  
Rivers, Daniel M.  
Robles, Elena A.  
Santos, David F.  
Segovia, Gloria  
Silva, Stephanie D.  
Sisay, Samrawit  
Tran, Phung T.  
Umanzor, Delmis  
Zawlocki, Sebastian Z.