El Camino High School
Advanced Placement Program

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college level classes taught on a high school campus. The College Board develops the curriculum framework, while trained ECHS teachers implement the course on a day-to-day basis. These classes are very challenging, require an additional time commitment, and demand significantly more work than typical high school classes.

El Camino High School offers 12 different Advanced Placement courses in the Social Studies, English, Mathematics, Computer Science, World Languages, and Science Departments. We continue to expand our AP offerings so that more of our student population will be exposed to the challenge of college-level work through the Advanced Placement curriculum. Most AP course descriptions contain prerequisite courses to be completed prior to enrollment; it is strongly recommended that students finish these courses with grades of A or B.

ECHS AP EQUITY AND ACCESS POLICY

SSFUSD and El Camino High School have made equitable access a guiding principle of the Advanced Placement program, giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP courses. All AP classes at ECHS will be open to all students who have made an informed decision and understand the course expectations.

THE BENEFITS OF TAKING AN AP COURSE

ECHS AP students delve more deeply into topics through research, practical applications and critical thinking. Students will become better prepared for college in terms of:

- Handling an increased rigorous workload – better time management skills
- Becoming self-motivated independent learners
- Increased problem-solving and critical thinking abilities
- Improved reading and writing techniques based on college-level proficiencies

THE AP EXAM & COLLEGE CREDIT

It is expected that all students enrolled in the AP program at ECHS will sit for the standardized AP exam(s) given worldwide in May for each AP course taken.

Depending upon the student’s score on the AP exam, and the university they will attend, students may receive college credit for the course. This means students could potentially enter college with units/credits, and may be able to skip one or more college courses. The exam is graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score.

It is up to individual colleges as to whether or not they will accept AP scores, and as to what scores they will accept, but in general most universities will give credit for 4s and 5s. Fewer institutions will accept 3s, but this score is still relatively widely accepted. In general, 1s and 2s are not accepted for college credit. But remember, even if students earn a 1 or a 2 on the exam, and thus do not get college credit, they still get the benefit of a weighted grade and, most importantly, the exposure to college-level rigor.

WEIGHTED GRADE

AP courses will carry a weighted grade on students’ transcripts. Students will receive 5 grade points for an A, 4 for a B, 3 for a C (as opposed to 4, 3, 2, respectively).
**RECOMMENDED NUMBER OF ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES**

Often, stress is increased when a student enrolls in more AP classes than is appropriate for them. ECHS has the following recommendations for AP class enrollment per year, however students are permitted to request to enroll in additional AP courses:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Recommended Number of Advanced Placement Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore Year</td>
<td>Up to <strong>ONE</strong> AP class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Year</td>
<td>Up to <strong>TWO</strong> AP classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Year</td>
<td>Up to <strong>TWO</strong> AP classes</td>
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</table>

**AP COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students should expect to spend additional hours on homework and assignments on the weekends. Before choosing classes, families should review how much homework students can expect on average, and plan out each day accordingly. Ideally, there should be enough time for school, homework, any extracurriculars or work commitments, and an appropriate amount of nightly sleep. It is strongly recommended that students and families review these recommendations before requesting advanced level courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP Course</th>
<th>Summer Assignment</th>
<th>Hours of Homework/Night</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>1.5 – 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculus AB</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>1.0 - 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science A</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>1.0 - 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language and Composition</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature and Composition</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Geography</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics 1</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>0.5-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Language &amp; Culture</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>1.0 - 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Government and Politics</td>
<td>Winter Break Assignment</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US History</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>1.5 - 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World History</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>1.0 - 1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please use the time management charts in this informational packet to assist you in your 2019-2020 academic planning.

**AP RESOURCES FROM THE COLLEGE BOARD**

- General Advanced Placement Information
  https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap

- What’s an AP Class Like? AP Is More Than You Think.
  https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/the-ap-experience

- What do Students Have to Say About AP? Hear from AP Students.
  https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/what-it-takes/student-voices

- How Colleges Take AP Credit
  https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies
FINDING A HEALTHY BALANCE
Students and parents/guardians need to be cautious when selecting their academic program. The goal is to develop a course load that is challenging, but not overwhelming. Families need to find the right balance for their students.

- Remember: it is not necessary to take AP classes every year.
  
  *There are other rigorous courses at ECHS that are not AP, but just as demanding.*

- Keep in mind: the time commitment of extracurricular activities.

- Keep in mind: the time commitment of AP courses combined with other ECHS course work.

- Don’t forget: Sleep is not a luxury and is vital to adolescent brain function.

GROWING CONCERNS
Students and parents/guardians should consider the commitment necessary to be successful in AP courses before enrollment. Some areas of concern for families to keep in mind:

- Unrealistic expectations can lead to increased levels of student stress and anxiety.

- Based on the course workload, students may experience school “burn out.”

- Amplified academic expectations come with an increased academically rigorous course load. 
  
  *Students may be tempted to violate the “cheating policy” outlined in the ECHS Student Handbook.*

- Students may earn lower grades in AP courses than they are accustomed to earning.
  
  *This may be a difficult experience for both students and their parents/guardians.*

HOW CAN STUDENTS BE SUCCESSFUL?
Success in an AP course requires seriously committed students who are willing to work far above the level required in a typical high school class. Students must attend class all the time, come prepared all the time, participate in a constructive and cooperative manner all the time, and shoulder the responsibility for the class work in a mature and diligent way. These are difficult courses with potentially great benefits.

Students who want to be successful in AP courses do the following:

- Take AP classes in areas that most interest them.
- Complete all summer assignments/homework.
- Spend the appropriate amount of time studying and preparing outside of class.
- Communicate with teachers and parents/guardians about any challenges they may be having.
- Work hard and accept the academic challenges of AP coursework.

HOW CAN PARENTS/GUARDIANS SUPPORT THEIR STUDENTS?
Parents/guardians play an integral role in the academic success of their students. Parents of successful AP students do the following:

- Praise their students for their successes (both academically and socially).
- Encourage their students to seek help and support from their teachers.
- Stay in touch – contact teachers, counselors, and administrators with concerns and questions.
- Create time and space for their students to study and complete homework assignments.
- Ensure that their students attend school regularly.
TIME MANAGEMENT PLANNING

**Step #1**
On the chart below, list the courses (AP, Honors, CP) you plan to take in the 2019-2020 school year.

“College Prep” Courses: 15-30 minutes of expected homework per night.
“Honors” Courses: 30-45 minutes of expected homework per night.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Expected HW/Night (in hours)</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Expected HW/Night (in hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours of Expected Homework Based on Selected 2019-2020 Courses**

**Step #2**
Complete the chart below with the time commitments of your additional 2019-2020 daily obligations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time Requirements (in hours)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time Requirements (in hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Hours (including travel time)</td>
<td>9 hours</td>
<td>Sleep Time (9 hours/night is recommended)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extracurriculars (sports, drama, music, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nightly Homework (use the above chart to calculate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Responsibilities (babysitting siblings, etc.)</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meal Time(s)</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours of Expected 2019-2020 Daily Obligations (cannot exceed 24 hrs)**
El Camino High School
Advanced Placement Program

Enrollment Procedures

SSFUSD and El Camino High School have made equitable access a guiding principle of the Advanced Placement program, giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP courses. All AP classes at ECHS will be open to all students who have made an informed decision and understand the course expectations.

1. To enroll in an AP course, students must achieve only ONE of the following:
   ● Earned an A or B in the prerequisite course of study.
   ● Has received the signature of the prerequisite course instructor, acknowledging that the student has the appropriate skill set to be successful in the requested AP course.
   ● Does not fulfill either enrollment condition above, but has the desire to enroll in an AP class. The student and their parent/guardian met with the school counselor to discuss the rigor and expectations of the AP coursework and received their counselor’s signature.

2. To enroll in an AP course, ALL students and parents/guardians must complete the following:
   ● “ECHS Advanced Placement Program Expectations Agreement”
     Student & Parent/Guardian Signatures
   ● “ECHS Advanced Placement Course Registration Request”
     Prerequisite Teacher, & Counselor Signatures

3. To drop an AP course, students and parents/guardians must:
   ● Submit a written request to a counselor by May 30, 2019.
   ● After May 30, 2019, requests to drop AP courses will NOT be honored. Students who experience an unforeseen hardship may request a waiver during the first week of the 2019-2020 school year. Waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. For further clarification on AP enrollment procedures/policies, please contact ECHS counseling:
   Mr. James Briano
   Assistant Principal, Guidance and Counseling
   jbriano@ssfusd.org or 650.877.8806 x6015

   A-Deg — Ms. Flores: eaguayo@ssfusd.org or 650.877.8806 x6019
   Deh-Lee — Ms. Herbert: jmherbert@ssfusd.org or 650.877.8806 x6018
   Lef-Ram — Ms. Christenson: cchristenson@ssfusd.org or 650.877.8806 x6020
   Ran-Z — Dr. Cervantes: ecervantes@ssfusd.org or 650.877.8806 x6017

Students are responsible for collecting the required signatures and returning all AP enrollment paperwork with Program Planning Sheet.

*If a student wishes to drop an AP course, students and parents/guardians must submit a written request to a counselor by May 30, 2019.
THE STUDENT

- Agrees to organize their time and effort to successfully complete the AP course(s) in which they will be enrolled.
- Will be expected to complete all assignments, readings and projects outside of class time.
- Will notify teacher(s) and parents/guardians immediately if they fall behind in class readings and/or assignments.
- Is expected to take the AP Exam(s) on its scheduled date and time in May as outlined by the College Board.

I UNDERSTAND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE AP COURSE(S) I AM PLANNING TO ENROLL IN.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS THE EXPECTATION THAT I REMAIN ENROLLED IN THE AP COURSE(S) I HAVE SELECTED FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE COURSE.

(Printed Name of Student)  (Student’s Signature)  (Date)

THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

- Agrees to be familiar with and accept the AP course requirements and policies
- Agrees to help their child organize study time in support of class assignments (please see course syllabus).
- Agrees to purchase required materials and to pay the AP exam fees if their child chooses to take the AP exam in May.

Students/families in financial need may qualify for a fee reduction. Please contact the AP Coordinator for more details.

I UNDERSTAND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE AP COURSE(S) MY CHILD IS PLANNING TO ENROLL IN.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS THE EXPECTATION THAT MY CHILD REMAIN ENROLLED IN THE AP COURSE(S) SELECTED FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE COURSE.

(Printed Name of Guardian)  (Guardian’s Signature)  (Date)

THE SCHOOL

AP Teacher(s), the AP Site Coordinator, ECHS Administration, Counseling Department

- Agrees to provide rigorous instruction and challenging course content as described in the AP Course Description.
- Will provide the student with a copy of the Bulletin for AP Students and Parents
- Agrees to administer the AP Exam in a fair and secure environment as outlined in the AP Coordinator’s Manual.

*If a student wishes to drop an AP course, students and parents/guardians must submit a written request to a counselor by May 30, 2019.

Please continue to the reverse side of this page for AP course registration
| AP Course Requested: | Prerequisite Course: 
  *Course Title* | Prerequisite Course: 
  *Teacher Signature* |
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<td>Current Academic Grade</td>
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</table>

*If you would like to enroll in more than two AP courses, please schedule a conference with your counselor.*

| AP Course Requested: | Prerequisite Course: 
  *Course Title* | Prerequisite Course: 
  *Teacher Signature* |
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**COUNSELOR VERIFICATION**

- [ ] Student is approved to enroll in the above AP course(s) based on verification of prerequisite grade requirements.
- [ ] Student is approved to enroll in the above AP course(s) based on prerequisite course teacher signatures.
- [ ] Student is approved to enroll in the above AP course(s) based on student/teacher conference with counselor.

(Participant Name) (Counselor's Signature) (Date)