



***Advanced Placement
Program Information***

2019-20

Overview & Feehan Philosophy

Advanced Placement classes are an important part of Bishop Feehan's overall college-preparatory curriculum, and Feehan is committed to continuously reviewing and improving all aspects of our AP offerings. The only goal, as always, is to provide the best possible Feehan education for all of our students.

Feehan believes that students should be appropriately challenged across all four of their Feehan years and in all of their classes, but it's important to note that -- at Feehan -- AP-level classes are not at all the only avenue to those challenges. All of our classes and levels place our students on the college path. And each year we have dozens and dozens of students accepted into many of the most competitive universities in the country *without any AP classes on their transcripts*.

The key question from the Feehan perspective -- and we hope from the parent perspective -- should always be: *What's the best combination of classes that will help this student thrive?* Leveling decisions include everything from ability and demonstrated historical performance to time demands and stress levels. Again, the *overall* success and welfare of our students is our main concern.

All that said, in the right circumstances we encourage our students to stretch themselves and -- if ready and willing -- to take on the challenge of an AP class or classes. AP classes are the most challenging classes offered at our school and require a time commitment and intensity level beyond even our Honors offerings. We pride ourselves on a robust AP curriculum and a very successful pass rate on AP tests.

The following pages are intended to help parents and students get a full feel for all of our AP offerings, including pre-requisites, expectations and challenges. We encourage all students and families to review the AP options and have a healthy discussion at home and with our guidance counselors about best choices for each individual.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is AP?

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program offered by the College Board which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. The content and workload of these courses is demanding, and expectations are high for the students, teachers and the school in general. AP teachers receive regular training and are audited annually by the College Board.

What are the AP exams?

Each AP course culminates with the students taking a national examination. These exams are always scheduled for the first few weeks in May. The dates and times are scheduled by the College Board so that all students across the nation are taking a specific exam in the same time frame. Exams are scored by trained teachers at national grading sessions. Students receive their exam scores in early July. Exams are scored on a 1 through 5 scale with a “3” generally considered a passing score. Bishop Feehan students may not opt out of their AP exam. There is a fee (~\$90-100) associated with each exam.

Students are allowed to register for an AP examination without being enrolled in the AP course. The student is responsible for informing their guidance counselor of their intention to take an exam well before the exam ordering deadline. The students are responsible for paying the AP examination fee and may not opt out of taking the exam once it has been ordered. Students who choose to take an exam without being enrolled in the course are fully responsible for their own learning.

Why take an AP course?

AP courses give students the opportunity to follow their passion for a subject by engaging in rigorous college-level course work. The academic challenges a student will face during AP courses can lead to significant personal growth.

During the admissions process, colleges and universities look favorably on students who take on the challenge of AP coursework. Good grades in AP courses on a transcript and high scores on AP exams indicate that the student is proactively developing and practicing college-level academic skills. Success in AP courses can also be a very important factor in a college’s decision to award merit aid.

Colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations. AP course credit can lead to advanced standing at college, which means a student may have more flexibility in their schedule, could graduate early, and/or enjoy tuition savings. Colleges are most often looking for scores of 4 and 5 in order to grant credit.

What are the expectations for AP students at BFHS?

AP students are expected to proactively engage in a rigorous, fast-paced learning environment. Much more time and effort is required for these classes than our other Honors and Honors-1 level courses. AP students must have strong work habits, study skills, and time management in and out of class. Work may include, but is not limited to, independent reading, writing, research, and projects.

AP students are expected to meet with the teacher and/or classmates outside of school hours. Morning meetings and testing sessions are common practice for many AP classes at Feehan. AP students are often required to learn portions of the material on their own time. Work may be assigned in the summer prior to the start of the class and during school vacations. AP students are expected to monitor their academic progress and proactively seek assistance and support when the work becomes challenging.

Students are not allowed to drop out of an AP course once they are enrolled. Students and parents sign an "AP Course Contract" acknowledging the rigors and expectations of AP enrollment.

What is "AP Potential?"

Each year, the College Board compiles national data from the PSAT and establishes benchmarks that can predict a student's "potential" to achieve specified scores on AP examinations. Bishop Feehan uses the AP Potential program to identify and inform students who may benefit by investigating the connection between their PSAT scores and potential success on AP exams. Students are encouraged to review their current academic progress in the identified courses and set goals that can help them make progress towards meeting the prerequisites for enrollment. Students can also learn about their personal "AP Potential" by logging on to their College Board account after receiving their yearly PSAT scores.

It is important to note:

- A student may meet the prerequisites for other AP courses not identified in their AP Potential profile.
- The College Board may note potential for a student in AP courses that are not offered at Bishop Feehan.
- **The AP Potential identification program does not indicate automatic acceptance into an AP course. Students must meet the prerequisite for each course in order to enroll.**
- A student may choose not to pursue an AP course or the path that leads to it. Genuine interest in a class is a strong predictor of success and therefore students should not feel pressured to elect AP courses that do not appeal to them.

Are there any drawbacks to taking AP courses?

Students should give very careful consideration to their ability to balance academic, athletic, extracurricular, and personal responsibilities, as well as their health and wellness, before enrolling in an AP course. AP course work can be very stressful and tiring. The extra time required for these courses can have an impact on time spent on work for other classes.

While students do receive more “weight” for enrolling in AP courses, they must understand that the additional weight does not always balance the added difficulty of the course. Students often find that their overall grade point average is much harder to maintain while enrolled in AP courses.

How does a student enroll in AP courses?

Students request AP courses through the normal course selection and registration process. They are strongly advised to consult with their guidance counselor, teachers, and department chairs to choose the AP courses that will help them meet their academic goals. Students must meet prerequisites in order to be approved for enrollment. Prerequisites are published in the Shamrock Studies course catalog as well as in this booklet.

Due to the rigorous demands of AP coursework, Bishop Feehan strongly believes that juniors and seniors should limit their enrollment to no more than three AP courses per academic year.

AP Biology

Course Description: This course is designed for students with superior analytical ability and a strong interest in biology. It demands high motivation and an ability to write cogently, coherently, and analytically. The course will require extensive reading assignments and substantial laboratory work. The course will develop the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills related to molecules, cells, heredity, evolution, diversity of organisms, ecology, structure and function of plants, animals, and humans.

Prerequisite: Successful completion (90 or better) in Biology I-H1 (312) or Honors (313), successful completion (90 or better) of Chemistry I-H1 (322) or Honors (323), and approval of Department Chairperson.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are strong readers and writers
- Are able to connect and relate knowledge across a variety of concepts and subjects

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in the medical field
- Majoring in science and/or pre-professional programs at college
- Using lines of evidence to develop and refine testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Labs and lab reports
- Multiple choice and free-response tests

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-biology>

AP Calculus

Course Description: This course covers all the material in a traditional introductory Calculus course. With graphing technology, the students are able to approach the material through analytical, numerical, and graphical methods. Topics include the study of limits and continuity, finding derivatives of functions, and applications of derivatives. Integration and its applications are studied in the second semester. Also covered are transcendental functions, growth and decay applications, and optimization problems. Emphasis is on theory as well as on applications. The course is directed toward the serious math student.

Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Calculus Honors 1 (85 or better) or completion of Pre-Calculus Honors (92 or better) and approval of the Department Chairperson.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are persistent when they encounter a new or difficult problem.
- Study independently.
- Can resolve some of their own errors, and ask questions when they can't.
- Can make connections between new concepts and previous learning.
- Strong algebra skills and graphing/diagramming ability.

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in science, engineering, math, economics, medicine, computer science, business.
- Challenging themselves mathematically.

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Typical math problems and tests.
- Graded take-home assignments.
- Practice AP problems.

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-calculus-ab>

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-calculus-bc>

AP CAPSTONE™

AP Capstone™ is a College Board program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. It cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions. The program gives students a chance to practice core academic skills they need to complete college: the ability to think independently, write effectively, research, collaborate, and learn across disciplines. More information about the AP Capstone™ program can be found [here](#).

Bishop Feehan will offer two options for this unique AP Capstone™ experience.

- AP Seminar and Research Certificate™ - Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research but not on at least four additional AP Exams.
- AP Capstone Diploma™ - Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on at least four additional AP Exams of their choosing.

Successful completion of AP Seminar is a prerequisite to the AP Research course, however, students who enroll in AP Seminar are not required to follow up with enrollment in AP Research. Both courses are required for the certificate or diploma described above.

AP SEMINAR

990

Elective

All Year

Grade 11

AP Seminar

Course Description: AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple source, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

In this course, students will engage in conversations about complex academic and real-world issues through a variety of lenses, considering multiple points of view. Students have the flexibility to choose one or more themes that allow for deep interdisciplinary exploration.

Students may use this course to fulfill their 6.5 minimum credit requirement for junior year, however, as this course cannot be used to replace a specific graduation requirement, a required course may need to be deferred to senior year. Due to the unique nature of this course, scheduling restrictions may occur. Students who wish to enroll in this class are advised to work closely with their guidance counselor to create a multi-year schedule plan that meets their needs for both junior and senior year.

Prerequisite: completed application, approval of guidance counselor and approval of AP Seminar teacher

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are strong readers and writers. Students will spend about 45 minutes each day reading material or writing responses for homework to prepare for the next day's class.
- Have a strong work ethic, an ability to work both independently and in groups, and good critical thinking skills, rather than simple memorization. Team projects and presentations are a major part of this course.
- Are prepared to make the commitment to learning new skills in a challenging class.

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in the medical field
- Majoring in science and/or pre-professional programs at college
- Using lines of evidence to develop and refine testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Research and writing
- Analyzing and synthesizing a variety of sources
- Team projects and presentations

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-seminar>

AP RESEARCH -

991

Elective

All Year

Grade 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Seminar (990.)

AP Research, the second course in the the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topics, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document the processes, and curate the artifacts of the scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-research>

All students enrolled in an AP Capstone course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination for the course in May. Students must pay the fee associated with this exam. Note that the fee for the AP Capstone courses is higher than the fee for all other AP courses.

AP Chemistry

Course Description: In keeping with the College Board's standards, the AP Chemistry curriculum will include: kinetics, thermochemistry, periodicity, chemical equilibrium acid-base chemistry, and intermolecular forces. This course is designed for highly motivated students who have demonstrated an extraordinary degree of competence in a first-year chemistry class. Students must exhibit mastery of stoichiometry, atomic theory, gas laws, and chemical bonding since these topics will be considered prior knowledge. Success in this course requires a high level of mathematical proficiency and problem-solving skills. Tests will be administered before school to accommodate a rigorous schedule of classes and labs.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry 1 – Honors 1 with a grade of 91 or higher, or Chemistry 1 – Honors with a grade of 95 or higher, successful completion of Algebra II and Trigonometry – Honors or Honors 1 with a grade of 91 or higher, and approval of Department Chairperson.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Have strong mathematical and analytical skills
- Have strong problem-solving skills
- Are able to work in groups to think analytically about problems
- Are able to think logically and express their ideas clearly both orally and in writing

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in Medicine or a Medical related field
- Majoring in Chemistry or a related field in college (eg. Pharmacy)

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Labs and lab reports
- Multiple choice and free-response tests

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-chemistry>

AP Computer Science A

Course Description: This course is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level course introducing students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using the Java language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems.

Prerequisite: Completion of Techniques of Computer Programming or Advanced Techniques in Computer Programming with at least 90 average.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are able to design, implement, and analyze solutions to problems
- Have a strong grasp of algebra
- Have an excellent foundation of mathematical reasoning and analytical skills
- Are able to communicate solutions appropriately and in ways that are relevant to current societal needs

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in computer science or other STEM-related fields
- How to use computers to address real-world problems in contemporary life

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Application-related labs
- Multiple choice and free response tests

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-computer-science-a>

AP Environmental Science

Course Description: AP Environmental Science (APES) is a year-long course that is the equivalent to a one semester college level Environmental Science course. Environmental Science is the interaction of sciences that attempts to explain how life on the Earth is sustained, what leads to environmental problems, how humans are responsible and interact with these elements and how these problems can be solved. Many sciences are important to environmental science. These include Biology (especially Ecology, that part of Biology that deals with the relationships among living things and their environment), Geology, Hydrology, Climatology, Meteorology, Oceanography, and Soil Science. In addition, APES students learn about environmental laws, environmental regulations, and environmental history.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology 1 and Chemistry 1 at the H or H1 level OR strong performance (90 or better) in Biology and Chemistry at the CP1 level, and approval of Department Chairperson. APES students must be good readers and writers and have strong analytical abilities.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are good readers and writers
- Are able to take a variety of information and draw meaningful conclusions
- Enjoy puzzles with no one correct answer

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in Environmental related fields
- The relationship between humans, their environment, and the biosphere
- Using field work to study human-made and natural environmental problems

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Hands-on lab activities and observations
- Multiple choice and free-response tests

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-environmental-science>

AP European History

Course Description: AP European History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university European history course. In AP European History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in four historical periods from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical comparisons; and utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course also provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world; poverty and prosperity; objective knowledge and subjective visions; states and other institutions of power; individual and society; and national and European identity.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of cumulative CORE graduation requirements (World History I and II if a rising junior plus US History I/II if a rising senior) at the Honors 1 level with an average grade of 90 and approval of Department Chair. Students who have successfully completed cumulative CORE graduation requirements (World History I and II if a rising junior plus US History I/II if a rising senior) courses at the Honors level with an average grade of 93 require approval of previous Social Studies teachers and the Social Studies Department Chair.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are strong readers who are self motivated. Reading needs to be done on a daily basis
- Are well versed in academic writing and research

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in politics, law, or international policy
- A career as a teacher
- An in depth understanding of world history in general

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Quizzes and tests
- Essays
- Oral presentations

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-european-history>

AP Language and Composition

Course Description: This course provides intensive practice in organizing and writing a variety of essays necessary to make the student a flexible writer who can compose in a variety of modes and for a variety of purposes. The course emphasizes analytical and persuasive essays on non-literary topics and provides the student with the background necessary to effectively critique the rhetorical structure, purpose, tone, and effects of good writing. In addition, the informed use of research materials and the ability to synthesize varied sources (to evaluate, use, and cite sources) are integral parts of the course. Practice in preparing for the AP Language and Composition exam is central to the course. AP English Language students must have strong writing skills, including command of the rules of English grammar, a strong and varied writing style, and mastery of the mechanics of English. Because they will be enrolled in a college course in high school, these students must also be willing to accept responsibility for their own learning.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of one of the following: English III Honors 1 with a minimum average of 93, English III Honors with a minimum average of 95, or AP Literature. PSAT Critical Reading score of 30+ and Writing score of 30+ required. Recommendation of the English teachers and approval of department chairperson.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are strong readers
- Can share their opinion through the spoken or written word
- Have strong writing skills (including knowledge of grammar)
- Can handle the responsibility of independent outside reading

Students who take this course are interested in....

- Improving their critical reading and analytical writing to a collegiate level
- Using language as a tool to craft an effective argument
- Studying English with a focus on practical, persuasive, and effective communication that applies to a wide variety of fields.
- Studying not just novels, poetry, plays, but works of nonfiction like speeches, letters, and works of journalism

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Extensive in class essays, supplemented by out of class writing assignments
- Tests on independent outside reading books
- Group reading of a text in class followed by analytical discussions

Resource

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-language-and-composition>

AP Literature and Composition

Course Description: This college level course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of fictional and dramatic literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. Selections will place an emphasis on British and world literature. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. AP Literature students must have strong writing skills, including command of the rules of grammar, a strong and varied writing style, and mastery of the mechanics of English. Because they will be enrolled in a college course in high school, these students must also be willing to accept responsibility for their own learning. This course will take the place of the English III requirement.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English II Honors 1 course with a minimum average of 92 or English II H with a minimum average of 94 and the approval of the English teacher. PSAT Critical Reading score of 30+ and Writing score of 30+ required. Recommendation of the English teachers and approval of department chairperson.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are strong readers
- Have strong writing skills (including knowledge of grammar)
- Engage fully in discussion and debate of class material
- Can handle the responsibility of independent outside reading

Students who take this course are interested in...

- Studying classic and contemporary fiction such as drama, poetry, and novels
- Becoming more efficient and analytical readers and writers
- Engaging in student-led discussions about texts
- Developing the ability to critically analyze and interpret the written word in a way which is practical for a variety of majors and career paths

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Independent, outside reading of novels
- In-class group reading and discussion of plays and poems
- Literary analysis essays
- Socratic Seminars
- In-class timed writing assessments

Resource

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition>

AP Physics

Course Description: This first year Physics course is designed for highly motivated students with superior analytical ability as well as exceptional mathematical skills. AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Through inquiry based learning, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. A significant portion of the instructional time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide students with opportunities to apply the science practices.

Prerequisite: Successful completion (90 or better) of Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Honors 1, and successful completion (90 or better) or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus Honors 1. Recommendation of Department Chairperson required.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are analytical and creative thinkers
- Are confident in their Algebra 2 and Trigonometry skills
- Are able to graph data and interpret graphed data
- Are able to work in a group to explain investigated natural phenomena

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in Engineering or a STEM related field
- A major in Physics, Engineering, or Math in college

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Inquiry based lab activities and lab reports
- Multiple choice and free-response tests

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-physics-1>

AP Psychology

Course Description: Defined as the “scientific study of behavior and mental processes”, psychology seeks to answer the “how” and “why” of our thoughts and actions from a research-based perspective. This course provides an introduction to psychology at a college level, and holds students to rigorous academic standards. Students will learn to think critically; discuss psychological facts, principles, and phenomena with ease; and apply textbook material to their own lives. Some topics covered include: Biology of Behavior, Development, Abnormal Psychology, Social Psychology, Memory, Motivation & Emotion, Sensation & Perception, Learning, and Therapy. The real-world relevance of psychology will be emphasized through demonstrations, discussions, and interactive activities whenever possible. At times, students will be required to independently study complex material and attend additional class sessions before school in order to adequately prepare for the AP Exam Deadline.

Prerequisite: Prerequisites: Students must have earned a minimum cumulative average of 90 in their Social Studies Honors 1 CORE courses, or a minimum cumulative average of 93 in their Social Studies Honors CORE courses with the approval of their Social Studies teachers, and the approval of the Department Chairperson.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are highly self-motivated, and take ownership of their learning through time, effort, and persistence.
- Manage their time well, stay on pace with the assigned reading, and space out their studying.
- See learning as an active pursuit, and engage fully in the material daily.
- Work to apply complex scientific concepts to their own lives in meaningful ways.

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in the social sciences.
- Learning more about themselves, their world, and the scientific “why” of thought and behavior.

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Multiple choice and free response tests
- Coverage of material through both lecture and at-home textbook reading
- Recall-based cumulative assessments quarterly
- Self-paced video lectures
- Digital formative assessments
- Digital and face-to-face groupwork and partnerwork

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-psychology>

AP Spanish Language & Culture

Course Description: The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is a rigorous fifth year course whose primary goal is to help students in upper-level Spanish succeed in the language classroom and, more importantly, the world around them. As defined by the College Board, successful students in the advanced language course should “demonstrate an understanding of the culture(s), incorporate interdisciplinary topics (Connections), make comparisons between the native language and the target language and between cultures (Comparisons) and use the target language in real-life settings (Communities).” A secondary goal is to increase cultural awareness of Spanish-speaking communities both in the US and worldwide by incorporating the study of current events and global issues by means of the six Global themes of the AP Spanish curriculum.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IV H1 or Spanish V H1 with an 85 average and approval of the Department Chair.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are committed to building their proficiency in Spanish written and spoken communication.
- Are open to learning to express themselves in different ways, becoming more effective communicators and tailoring their arguments to various audiences.
- Develop the ability to interpret audio, audio-visual and written authentic sources in Spanish without dependence on a dictionary.

Students who take this course are interested in....

- Careers using Spanish such as education, medicine, law, public service, nursing, foreign service, diplomacy, international business, reporting or a plethora of other service, political or international professions. .

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Comparing and contrasting cultural perspectives between your community and those of a Spanish-speaking community.
- Reading and discussing current events, a short literary work by a Spanish speaking author or an online newspaper article.
- Listening to a radio or television broadcast and presenting orally or in a written manner its content and your own opinions about it to your class.
- Writing a persuasive essay utilizing both written and audio sources.
- Participating in active two way conversations in Spanish using appropriate register and communication strategies.
- Listening to Spanish spoken by native speakers at a natural pace, with a variety of regional pronunciations.

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-spanish-language>

AP Statistics

Course Description: This course will cover all topics in the AP Statistics curriculum. Emphasis is placed on the application of statistics to problems in science, biology, economics, and the social sciences. Students are expected to do statistics projects that involve gathering data on a subject of interest and performing a statistical analysis. Topics covered include analyzing and graphing data, correlations and linear regression, the normal distribution, designing statistical experiments, probability, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, sampling distributions, and comparing sets of data. Graphing calculators will be used extensively.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Calculus Honors 1 or Pre-Calculus Honors with an 85 average and approval of the Department Chairperson.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are persistent when faced with new concepts or problems.
- Study independently.
- Write out careful and complete answers to questions.
- Are good readers and writers.

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in government, political science, psychology, business, nursing, marketing, science.
- Understanding how to interpret real-world data.

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Typical math homework and tests.
- Projects involving finding and analyzing appropriate real-world data.
- Practice AP problems.

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-statistics>

AP Studio Art

Course Description: This course follows the curriculum prescribed by the College Board for Advanced Placement and is designed to help students develop and begin to refine their own style and direction in the field of art. Much time is spent on refining portfolios in terms of: more challenging techniques, breadth of works, and more in-depth, concentrated work of a specific subject. Advanced study requires that a significant amount of work be done outside of regular classes. This course can include all artistic media: studio and digital graphics.

Prerequisite: Approval of Department Chairperson. Three full years of studio and/or graphics art are strongly recommended, as students will use prior art experience to prepare a portfolio in the area of 2d design or drawing and present twenty-nine works to the College Board in May.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Have a passion for creating art
- Are willing to work on their artwork at all times
- Are willing to explore new techniques and processes
- Can manage a heavy art workload in and out of the school day

Students who take this course are interested in....

- Art in all forms
- Working on their own
- Making decisions about design
- Taking and manipulating photographs on a daily basis
- Exploring their own artistic style

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Demonstrating mastery through any two-dimensional medium or mark making process. These can include drawing, printing, painting, graphic design, digital imagery, photography, collage, batik, illustration or mixed media.
- Developing technical skills and becoming familiar with the functions of visual elements and principles.
- Preparing an individual portfolio of work for evaluation.
- Exploring drawing issues including light and shade, rendering of form, composition, surface manipulation, the illusion of depth and mark-making through a variety of means.

Resources:

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/ap-student/pdf/ap-counselor-teacher-conversation-starter.pdf>

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-studio-art-drawing>

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-studio-art-2-d-design>

AP US Government & Politics

Course Description: The Advanced Placement course in United States Government and Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course will include both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics, and the analysis of specific examples. It requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Students will become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for the various behaviors and outcomes within U.S. politics. The following topics will be explored: Constitutional underpinnings of U.S. government; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and mass media; institutions of national government; public policy; civil rights and civil liberties. This course is run in as a college seminar class where students are expected to lead debate and discussion on various topics by presenting position papers during class time. Discussion will be documented on Google Classroom. Students MUST be comfortable leading seminars and public speaking to succeed in the AP Government classroom. This class is NOT a place to argue political preferences, it is a place to learn about how the government actually functions from the time of the framers into the present.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP US History or students must have earned a minimum cumulative average of 90 in their Social Studies Honors 1 CORE courses, which must include US History II, or a minimum cumulative average of 93 in their Social Studies Honors CORE courses (including US History II) with the approval of their Social Studies teachers, and the approval of the Department Chairperson.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are strong readers who are self motivated
- Work well with others and are well versed in academic writing and research
- Are able to synthesize complex ideas from the text into real life application

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in politics, law, and public policy
- An in depth understanding of U.S. Government as opposed to simple political ideology

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Position papers and presentations
- Self guided reading of content that will be expected to be understood and applied on vocab quizzes and tests (this is a seminar not a lecture class...you must learn the basic content on your own through a close reading of the text!)
- Class participation on Google Classroom discussions

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-government-and-politics>

AP United States History

Course Description: This course is for students with superior verbal ability and a strong interest in history. It requires high motivation and an ability to write cogently, coherently, and analytically. Students must also be able to acquire knowledge from varied sources as necessary. The course requires extensive reading assignments and numerous papers and essays. The course surveys the key political, social, economic, and cultural events from the Age of Exploration to the present. The areas of concentration include Colonial America, the American Revolution, the development of the Constitution, the Jacksonian Era, Civil War, Reconstruction, the Populist and Progressive Movements, WWI, the Twenties, the Great Depression, the New Deal, WWII, and the Cold War and its aftermath.

Prerequisite: Students must have earned a minimum cumulative average of 90 in their Social Studies Honors 1 CORE courses, or a minimum cumulative average of 93 in their Social Studies Honors CORE courses with the approval of their Social Studies teachers, and the approval of the Department Chairperson. *Seniors who have not yet fulfilled their U. S. History requirement may enroll in this course to complete their graduation requirement. Seniors who have completed their U.S. History requirement may not enroll in this class as an elective.

Students who are successful in this course...

- Are strong readers who are self motivated. Reading needs to be done on a daily basis
- Are well versed in academic writing and research

Students who take this course are interested in....

- A career in politics, law, or public policy
- A career as a teacher
- An in depth understanding of United States history in general

Typical activities, assignments, and assessments include...

- Quizzes and tests
- Essays
- Oral presentations

Resources:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-history>

BISHOP FEEHAN HIGH SCHOOL

AP Course Contract

Student Name: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Student Email: _____ Current HR #: _____

AP Course: _____

Advanced Placement (AP) courses at Feehan are exceptionally rigorous and come with unique requirements and expectations. The purpose of the form is to ensure the student's and parent's awareness of those expectations and the very specific commitments associated with AP enrollment. Student and parent signatures indicate understanding of the following:

- AP courses are college-level courses in which students with a strong academic skills and passion for the subject immerse themselves in intensive, college-preparatory learning experiences.
- AP courses are more rigorous than other courses and demand more time and effort from the student.
- AP courses require strong work habits, study skills and time management in and out of class. Work may include, but is not limited to, independent reading, writing, research and projects.
- Students are required to attend mandatory class meetings outside of the regularly scheduled class period. Work may be assigned in the summer before the class and during school vacations.
- Students will not be removed from an AP class once enrolled. Grades may be lower than a student is used to; struggles (and necessary perseverance) are often part of the AP experience.

Student

Initials

I understand that ...

- _____ I will not be removed from the course once enrolled.
- _____ I must provide longer periods of study time to this class and will attend required meetings outside of regular class time.
- _____ I may need extra tutoring and will be proactive about seeking outside support.
- _____ I must proactively communicate with and seek help from the teacher.
- _____ I must monitor progress in PlusPortals on a weekly basis.
- _____ I must practice the highest level of academic integrity.
- _____ I am required to take the AP exam for this course and pay the associated exam fee.
- _____ I am responsible for learning portions of the material on my own outside of class instruction time, including during the summer and school vacations.

STUDENT COMMITMENT

I acknowledge the rigorous nature of an AP course. I am making a commitment to putting my best efforts into success in this course, even in the face of challenges. I understand and agree that I will not be removed from this class once enrolled.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMITMENT

I acknowledge the rigorous nature of my child's enrollment in this AP course. I have discussed the commitments listed above with my child and I understand my child will not be removed from this class once enrolled.

Signature: _____

Date: _____