



Follow up from
TO AP OR NOT TO AP

In attendance and responding to Q & A:

Ms. Collins, Assistant Principal, Math and Science
Mr. Pappas, Guidance Department
Mr. Moore, Programming Office
Ms. Nikolova, AP English Teacher
Ms. Mehter, AP English Teacher
Mr. Dubossi, AP Environmental Science Teacher
Mr. Vinogradav, AP Physics Teacher
Ms. Lawton, AP Statistics Teacher

Q & A from January 16, 2019 Parents Association Academic Forum

Q: What is the difference between the Naviance Planner and the La!Portal?

A: Naviance Planner is used for planning only. La! Portal is used when students register for classes.

Q: When does the La!Portal open?

A: Tuesday February 12, 2019.

Q: When does the La!Portal close?

A: Thursday, March 14, 2019.

Q: When is the AP Fair?

A: Monday, February 11, 2019.

Q: Do Guidance Counselors meet individually with students? Or do students have to seek out assistance?

A: Counselors do not meet one-on-one with each student. If you have a freshman or sophomore who is having trouble or has questions, they should reach out to their counselor. Things to do: Fill out Naviance planner, keep track of date for La!Portal registration, any questions reach out to student's counselor.

Q: What is the difference between AP and non-AP courses?

A: AP classes are college-level courses. They move at a faster pace and are more rigorous. Many highly selective and selective colleges look favorably on students who have taken some AP courses during high school because it shows they are challenging themselves and taking the most rigorous courses available to them.



But each college is different in how they view APs; conservatories may not care much about APs, but Ivy Leagues often do. AP courses will cover more material and are more in-depth than regular high school classes. Many schools use a higher grade point scale for AP classes. Many colleges will accept AP for college credit or as a prerequisite. However, students should consider several things before taking AP courses – do they like the subject matter?, is their schedule balanced?, are they too overloaded?

Q: What are the important take-aways to think about when deciding on AP or not?

A: Consider the following:

- Have your student speak with their teacher about whether AP is right for them.
- Keep in mind that there is a big jump in demands and pace when going from Regents class to AP class.
- Speak to other students in same studio to make sure demands of AP classes can be balanced with demands of studio.
- Look into the range of grades and prerequisite courses required for taking AP classes. Students will receive a handout, and the requirements will be available in Naviance and La!Portal.

Q: How many AP classes should my child take?

A: LaGuardia recommends taking no more than 2 AP classes per year, but individual approval for additional classes may be granted on a case-by-case basis

Q: What if my child finds the AP class too difficult?

A: A student can drop AP class during first 2 weeks of class; after 3-4 weeks in class you generally have to stay in the class.

Q: When do students take AP exams?

A: The College Board administers the AP exams in May. Students take class finals at the end of June.

Q: Does my child have to take the AP exam?

A: Students are expected to take the AP exam at end of AP class. Some teachers use the AP exam grade as part of their final grade (depends on teacher if the AP exam counts as part of grade); decision not to take AP exam is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Why are some AP courses only worth 1 credit and others 2 credits?

A: It has to do with seat time. For example: AP Human Geography is an academic elective that can be taken in addition to another Social Studies class (primary SS class can be AP or non-AP) and it is only worth 1 credit (and has no lab) because it meets for fewer classes than 2 credit classes; AP Biology is a double period course 5 days per week so is worth more credits, etc.



Q: Can you explain the difference between Regents vs. AP exam?

A: Regents exams are exams distributed in high school by New York State. AP exams are distributed by the College Board. In math and science there is no course where you are taking both a Regents and an AP (you take either/or depending on the course you are taking). In Social Studies, there are times where you may have to take both the Regents and the AP exam (because Social Studies Regents exams are given after each year per NYS). English Regents exams are only given once in four years of high school (usually sophomore or junior year) so it is possible you could take both an English and an AP English exam.

Q: Can a student in any studio take AP Art History, AP Music Theory, or AP Studio Art?

A: No, these courses are studio specific and cannot be taken if student is not in those studios.

Q: How is AP placement determined?

A: Look at diagram in Weekly Bulletin for information about scheduling. Conflict in scheduling may preclude student from taking an AP class that they are qualified for. Guidance and programming try to schedule to maximize the students who want to and can fit in the class. Sometimes classes fill up. Criteria is based on first semester grades or entire transcript grades.

Q: What if I didn't get a class I requested and want to appeal the process?

A: Student can receive a "requested form report" in the Spring. Student should follow up with guidance counselor if they didn't get the AP course they wanted. Student can also see guidance counselor during first week of school to try to get into course.

Q: Explain the difference between AP Language & Composition and AP Literature & Composition

A: AP Language & Composition is offered to Juniors and AP Literature & Composition is offered to Seniors. AP Language focuses on nonfiction texts while AP Literature focuses on fiction and poetry. Most students come from Honors 10th grade English, but Honors English is not a requirement. There is, however, a grade requirement. Reading requirement per night varies between 30-40 pages per night to a dense 2-3 pages/night, expect up to 45 min per night of homework, reading pace is faster than non-AP class, the same texts as non-AP are often read, but doing critical essays and reading related essays is added to the class; major research project on poet of your choice is assigned senior year; a lot of philosophy is covered in AP Literature.

Think about these things when deciding if AP English is right for you:

- Is reading work for your student? Or do they love to do it?
- Understand that writing is a process.
- There is a learning curve. Focus on rhetorical devices, contemporary and real-world applications – very different from Honors English. Adjustment period during first couple of months.
- AP Language is a lot of reading supplementary text (essays, articles, excerpts)
- Pass rate for AP exams – very high



- Big oral component: oral research presentation, Socratic seminars, oral report at end of year,
- Summer assignments – Summer reading book announced in June. No written assignment over summer but writing assignment in beginning of school year.
- AP Literature and AP Language have a focus on group work and collaboration.
- College Board offers standards overview for the classes.

Q: Who gets into Honors 10th grade English class?

A: Check bulletin for requirements. Student can request step up to Honors English.

Q: How many math/science courses can my child take per year?

A: Students can take two math or two science classes in senior year if they have completed all of their studio requirements.

Q: What is the difference between Physics vs AP Physics?

A: Physics vs. AP Physics – need to take Regents Physics with an 85 or above to take AP Physics; general science grade of 85 or above; strong math skills necessary.

Q: Are there any other AP science options if my child does not want to take AP Physics?

A: An alternative to taking AP Physics is AP Environmental Science. AP Env. Sci. is an applied science, covers science and policy, offers a blend between science and art

- Must have a physical and life science
- Summer assignment – reading a book for Env. Sci. and general physics for AP Physics (and some problems to work through for physics)
- Homework assignments – unit assignments that they have a week to work on for Env. Sci. (take about 30 min each night), for AP Physics the workload is about 45 min - 1 hour per night
- AP Env. Sci. is open to Juniors and Seniors, maybe sophomores (guidance is trying it out this year case by case)
- Need to take Regents Chemistry before taking AP Chemistry
- AP Statistics – some commonality in AP Env. Sci., some overlap in AP Stat and AP Bio and AP Psychology

Q: When is AP Psychology offered?

A: It is offered to Seniors and it is a full 2-credit class. AP Psychology counts as a Science course.

Q: How many AP Science courses are offered?

A: AP Physics, AP Environmental Science, AP Chemistry (double block), AP Biology (double block), AP Psychology (depends on demand).



Q: What AP Math courses are offered?

A: Math offerings: AP Comp Sci, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics

- Can take non-AP Calculus, which is like a pre-calc course, but it is not a pre-req for AP Calc.
- Algebra 2 is a pre-req for AP Statistics
- Trigonometry is no longer a separate course
- Summer assignment – if you are making the jump from Algebra 2 to AP Calculus, the summer assignment might help bridge the gap.
- AP Statistics – some commonality in AP Env. Sci., some overlap in AP Stat and AP Bio and AP Psychology

Q: what are the core course requirements?

A: Students are required to take four years of English and Social Studies, but can drop Math and Science in senior year. For the Advanced Regents Diploma: 9 exams required; music and arts assessments can count in place of the LOTE exam.

Q: What are the current AP LOTE (Languages Other Than English) course offerings?

A: AP French, AP Japanese, AP Italian, AP Spanish. These course options change from year to year. Please check course catalogue. Not all courses are offered each year.

Q: What are the current AP Social Studies course offerings?

A: AP Human Geography, AP Global 1/2, AP Global 3/4, APUSH (AP US History), AP Comparative Government & Politics.

Please check course catalogue. Not all courses are offered each year. There are also several HONORS Social Studies courses offered yearly (e.g. Honors Government & Economics).



Parent Questions (submitted via index card):

PLEASE NOTE:

At the end of the last Academic Forum, parents submitted questions on index cards. Below are the responses to the general questions. Some questions were forwarded to department heads or Guidance and we are still awaiting those responses. We will post them in another email as soon as we receive the answers back.

Further, some parents submitted very specific course scheduling questions via index cards. The answers to these questions are very dependent on each individual student. If your question was student specific, we encourage parents and students to reach out to their student's guidance counselor to have a discussion about the best course selections for your student.

Q: Do you need AP classes for conservatories and/or specialty programs (e.g. Drama programs)?

A: Please check the requirements for the specific program(s) your student is interested in. Each program has different requirements.

Q: What's better? High grade for Honors or low grades for AP?

A: Highly selective colleges are looking for students to take the most rigorous courses available. However, course selection should take into account students' other commitments, interests, and goals. Also, be mindful that the complex scheduling requirements at LaGuardia may limit your course selections, so the Honors course may be the most challenging course available to your student based on their schedule.

Q: Should students complete the La!Portal independently or with parent oversight?

A: While the La!Portal is easy for students to navigate and complete on their own, parents are strongly encouraged to review student course selection before final course request submission.

Q: Can AP classes be converted in college credits? If so, how is this done?

A: It depends. Each college has its own internal criteria regarding AP courses and college credit approval. Once your student is accepted to a college, check the specific requirements for AP credit. In general, the SUNY and CUNY schools accept AP courses for college credit (if you score above the minimum criteria, usually a 3 or 4 on the test), whereas you will need to check out-of-state and private institutions regarding their policies for AP credit.

Q: If you take the AP test, do you need to take the SAT II subject test in the same subject?

A: Many highly selective schools recommend that applicants take 2-3 SAT II subject tests regardless of whether or not they've taken the corresponding AP test.



Q: Do you have the same guidance counselor for your entire time at LaGuardia?

A: LaGuardia strives to keep you with your counselor throughout high school.

Q: What is the relative workload for each AP class vs. the non-AP class in the same subject?

A: AP classes are college-level classes. Students should expect a heavier workload in their AP classes relative to non-AP classes. That being said, the workload is also teacher-dependent and student-dependent. If your student has an interest in the subject, the workload will probably not feel overwhelming. Your student should choose AP classes based on interest.

Q: How are AP classes weighted in the GPA?

A: AP classes are weighted at 1.1 (i.e. 10% increase). Please refer to the "FAQ to Application Questions" section found on the Counseling and Support Page (Post-Secondary Planning Page) on the LaG! website:

https://laguardiahhs.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=314512&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=674516

Q: My student does not have a Naviance or La! Portal account? What should he/she do?

A: Please contact Ms. Allison Price at: aprice7@schools.nyc.gov

Q: How should we choose which AP classes to take if our student is not sure what they want to do in the future?

A: Your student should choose to take AP classes that they find interesting now. Their interests in the future are unpredictable, and many students change their areas of interest in college. Your student will do their best work and gain the most from a class if the subject interests them.

Q: What is the typical sequence of core classes?

A: Sample sequences can be found on pages 6 and 7 in the LaGuardia Course Catalogue.

Paste this link into your browser:

https://laguardiahhs.org/pdf/Course%20Catalog%202017_18%20Rev%202011_17.pdf

Guidance will be uploading the new course catalogue on the website soon.