



An Introduction to the Advanced Placement Program®

Morris Hills Regional District

Welcome

The Morris Hills Regional District is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to rigorous course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.



What We' ll Cover

- What are Advanced Placement® Courses?
- The Benefits
- AP® Exams
- What Is It Like to Take AP?
- Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices
- Q & A



What Are Advanced Placement[®] Courses?

Advanced Placement[®]: The Basics

- AP[®] courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course, measuring their mastery of college-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college

Our AP[®] Courses

- **AP Capstone:** AP Seminar, AP Research (Magnet Program only)
- **Arts:** AP Art History, AP Music Theory, AP Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, AP Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, AP Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** AP European History, AP Human Geography, AP Economics (Macroeconomics & Microeconomics), AP Psychology, AP United States Government and Politics, AP United States History
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Statistics
- **Sciences:** AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics 1: Algebra-based, AP Physics C: Mechanics & Electricity and Magnetism
- **World languages:** AP French Language and Culture, AP Spanish Language and Culture

AP[®] at Morris Hills Regional

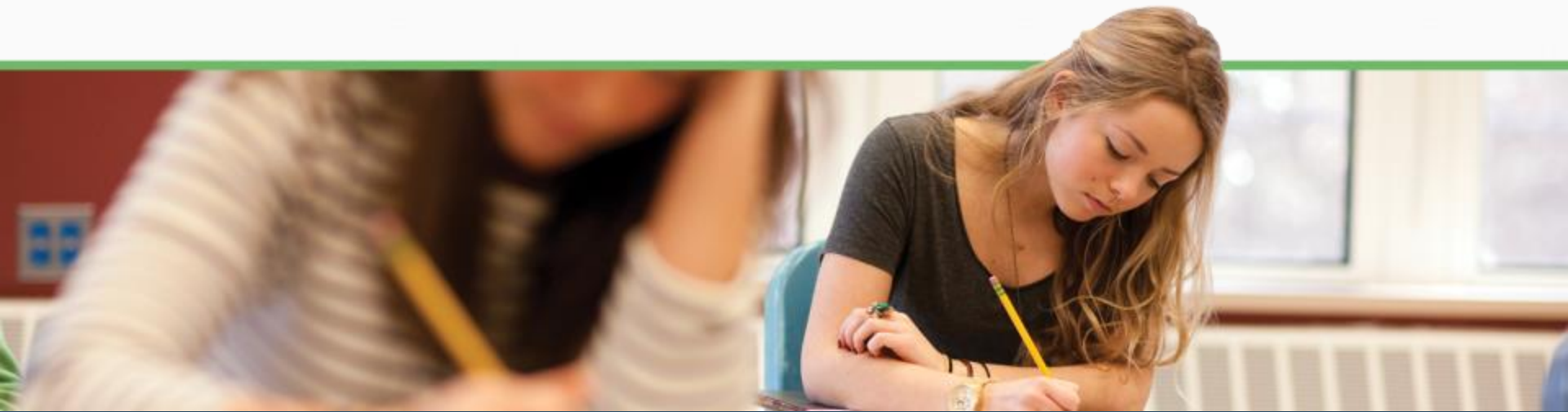
- 474 students at MHRD took 996 exams in 2015.
- 82% of scores in 2015 were a 3, 4, or 5.
- 55 students at MHRD were designated as AP Scholars in 2015. 16 of these 55 students were designated as National AP Scholars.
 - AP Scholars demonstrate superior college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. They receive an award certificate, and this achievement is acknowledged on any AP score report that is sent to colleges the following fall.
- In 2012, Morris Hills Regional was selected as an AP Honor Roll District, one of only 367 districts/schools in the U.S. and Canada in recognition of access, equity, and achievement in our AP Program.



AP[®]: The Benefits

AP[®]: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college



AP[®] from the College Admissions Perspective

- 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions*
- Colleges rank grades in college-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision
- AP courses tell college admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter in their college careers

• **Unpublished institutional research, Crux Research Inc., March 2007*

AP[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers*

**2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

AP[®] Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

- Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a college degree on time.* Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of college.
- Only 1 in 4 college students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of college for a single year is \$23,410** for in-state schools (tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

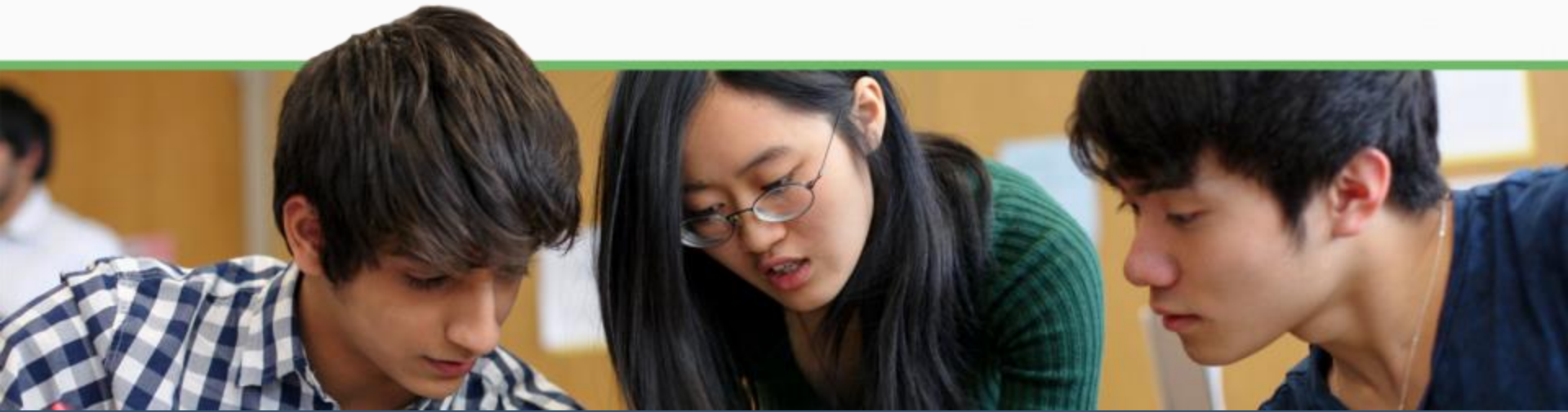
*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

***The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2014, Figure 1*

AP[®] Expands Students' Options

When students earn college credit through AP Exams, their options and opportunities expand:

- Move to upper-level college courses sooner
- Pursue a double major
- Gain time to study and travel abroad



AP[®]: A More Engaging Learning Experience

AP courses challenge students to work and participate at a higher level:

- Opportunities to explore topics in depth
- More time in and out of the classroom required to complete assignments and projects
- High expectations for critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evidence, multiple perspectives, and clear written and verbal communications

AP[®]

AP[®] Exams

AP[®] Exams

AP Exams are administered by schools worldwide on set dates in May each year.

- Exams are typically 2–3 hours and include:
 - Multiple-choice questions
 - Free-response items such as essays, problem solving, document-based questions and oral response



AP[®] Exam Fees

- The exam fee for 2015 is \$91 per exam.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
 - The College Board offers a \$29 fee reduction per exam for eligible students with financial need.
 - *New Jersey also offers aid to eligible students; please see your guidance counselor for details.*

Credit and Placement Opportunities

Each college and university has its own policies regarding AP[®] credit and placement. The College Board offers information about AP credit at thousands of college and universities at

www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy.

The screenshot shows the 'AP Credit Policy Info' page on the CollegeBoard website. The page has a blue header with the CollegeBoard logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are navigation tabs: 'College Board Tools', 'What for College', 'Find a College', 'AP Credit Policy', and 'Pay for College'. The main content area is titled 'AP Credit Policy Info' and 'Advanced Placement Program'. It includes a search bar labeled 'Find colleges and universities with AP credit policy information'. Below the search bar, there are two rows of letters: 'A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z' and 'A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z'. There is a 'School Name' input field and a 'Go' button. Below the input field, there is a note: 'To begin your search, enter the name of the college or university or select a letter of the alphabet to find institutions that begin with that letter.' The footer of the page contains links: 'Site Map', 'Contact Us', 'About Us', 'Press', 'Careers', 'Join Us', 'Compliance', 'Terms of Use', and 'Privacy Policy'. There is also a 'TRUSTED' logo.

- Search by school name or alphabetically
- Data for each school includes a direct link to that school's Web page detailing AP credit and placement policies
- A statement from the college or university about its AP policy



What is it like to take AP[®]?

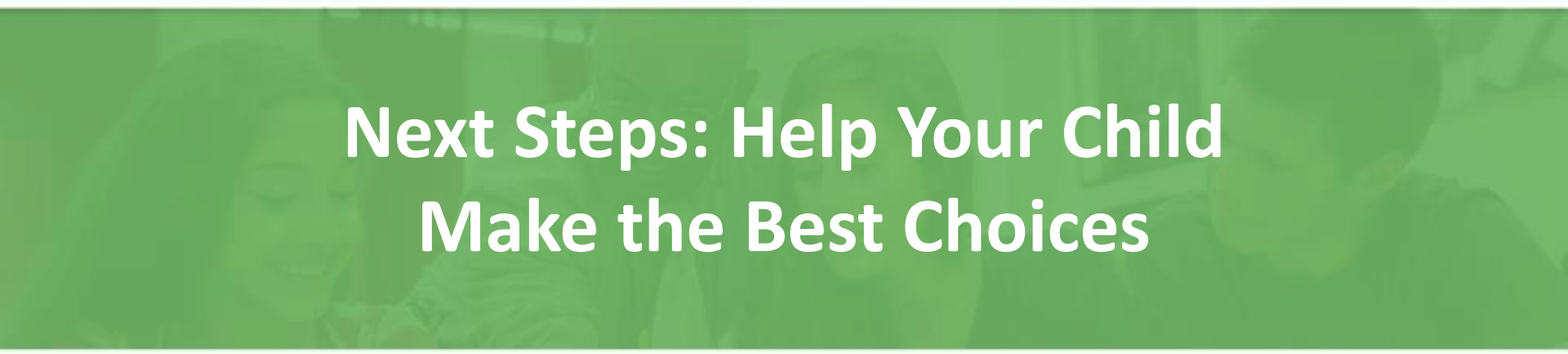
AP[®] Myths & Realities

Myth	Reality
AP courses are for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any students who are academically prepared and motivated to take college-level courses.
AP courses are too stressful.	It's no secret that AP courses are challenging. But the support you receive from your classmates and teachers can help you manage the work load.
I don't think I will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don't need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or higher on an AP Exam.
Taking AP courses could hurt my GPA.	<Describe any extra weighting for AP course grades that your school may offer.> Taking AP courses shows colleges that you're willing to challenge yourself academically.
I can't take AP because no one has recommended me.	If you think you're ready to take an AP course, then you're ready to advocate for yourself — just talk to a teacher or counselor.

Our District Offers Support for AP[®] Students

Our district offers these resources and programs to support our AP students:

- **Annual AP & Elective Fair:** Students are given the opportunity to speak with current AP students and teachers before signing up for courses.
- **Peer Tutoring:** Students can sign up to work with peer tutors from National Honor Society to work on AP classwork or exam preparation.
- **Study Sessions:** Some AP teachers offer study sessions (outside of class) to their students prior to the AP Exams.

A horizontal band with a green gradient overlay, containing a blurred image of three students looking at a device together.

Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

AP[®]: Start the Conversation

Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

What AP course is right for me?

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- Which courses do you enjoy most in school? In which subjects do you excel?
- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

- In which AP courses at our school am I likely to do well?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP or prepare me for college and careers?

What steps do I need to take?

- What is our school's enrollment deadline?
- May I speak with a student who has taken an AP course?
- Are there study groups or people who can offer help if I need it?
- What can I do next to help me prepare for AP?

AP[®]: Resources Worth Exploring for Students and Families

- AP information: apstudent.collegeboard.org
- College and Career Planning: bigfuture.org
- Personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on your PSAT/NMSQT[®] results: My College QuickStart™
www.collegeboard.org/quickstart
- AP credit policy information from colleges and universities:
www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy