

Timber Creek High School Advanced Placement Choice+ Program



Informational Packet

2020-2021

Advanced Placement Choice Program (APC+)

APChoice

The Advanced Placement Choice Program is a structured program for academically talented and highly motivated students. Our mission is to guide, to inspire and to recognize students who pursue a specific program of academic excellence. The AP Choice Program offers students academic challenges and introduces them to college-level work. Students entering the APC+ Program take several Pre-AP (APC+) courses in ninth and tenth grade to introduce them to the demands of college-level work and to prepare them for Advanced Placement classes. Throughout their high school years, APC+ students have the opportunity to earn college credits and/or advanced course placement in college.

Requirements for this program include a minimum of 6 total AP courses. Students must take at least one AP course each year of high school. Students must maintain a 3.0 unweighted GPA to remain in the program. Students must complete all APC+ cohort courses during their ninth and tenth grade years. Dual-Enrollment courses can be taken after meeting the eligibility requirements.

The ***suggested*** course sequence for this program is outlined below, but can be changed and adapted for specific student needs to meet graduation requirements. All APC+ requirements must be fulfilled to remain in the program. **Please refer to the FAQ page of the packet for a list of all AP courses offered at TCHS.**

Note: ALL 9th and 10th grade courses are required and must be taken at TCHS. APC+ students must take at least one AP course both freshman and sophomore years. Students may take honors level courses in lieu of AP courses as long as the student fulfills the program course requirements.

Grade 9	Grade 10
Pre-AP (APC+) English 1 Honors	Pre-AP (APC+) English 2 Honors
Pre-AP (APC+) Geometry Honors OR Pre-AP (APC+) Algebra 2 Honors	Pre-AP (APC+) Algebra 2 Honors OR Pre-AP (APC+) Pre-Calculus Honors
Pre-AP (APC+) Biology Honors OR AP Biology	AP Science OR Honors Science
AP Human Geography	AP World History OR Honors World History
World Language or Elective	World Language or Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

A complete list of TCHS AP course offerings can be found in the FAQ section.

APC+ 9th grade Student AP Course Choices



APC+ students are required to take one AP (college-level) course during their 9th grade year, but can elect to take more than one AP course. AP Human Geography will be required. Students can elect to take additional AP courses from the list below.

AP Human Geography (*full year course*)

The AP Human Geography course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. The course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards (2012).

Only AP Human Geography is required in 9th grade. You can elect to take the below courses, if you choose. It is recommended that APC+ students take one AP class their 9th grade year.

Option 1:

AP Biology (*full year course*)

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes — energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions.

Option 2:

AP Computer Science Principles (*full year elective course*)

AP CSP offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP CSP also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving.

APC + Junior and Senior Year Options

Prior to registration for the 11th grade year, students in the APC+ program will decide on the program track that they would like to continue through. After 10th grade, students will have completed the majority of their APC+ courses and will continue their work in AP courses with Dual-Enrollment and Capstone additions. Students must meet separate eligibility requirements to take Dual-Enrollment courses.



Timber Creek High School AP Capstone Program

*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. AP Capstone is comprised of two AP courses — **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** — and is designed to complement and enhance the discipline-specific study in other AP courses. Please visit the AP Capstone Seminar website for more information:*

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

Students will be eligible to receive a **nationally recognized AP Capstone Diploma** by completing the following requirements:

- Pass the AP exams for both AP Seminar (11th grade) and AP Research (12th grade)
- Pass 4 other AP exams

The AP Capstone program is the highest academic program that Timber Creek High School offers and is considered “the pinnacle of distinction” within the AP program. The AP Capstone Diploma is comparable to those students earning an IB or AICE diploma. More information about the Capstone program will be presented to students within their sophomore year.

Please see the additional packet of information on the AP Capstone Program or visit the APC+ website.

AP Capstone Track	AP Choice Track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will be eligible to receive a nationally recognized AP Capstone Diploma by completing the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pass the AP exams for both AP Seminar and AP Research ✓ Pass 4 other AP exams -Students will be recognized as completing the most rigorous coursework at TCHS. -Ability to be recognized as a diploma candidate by counselors within the Common and Coalition applications when applying to colleges. -Students will receive a special diploma seal, sash and honors cord at graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students will be recognized as completing the rigorous coursework of the APC+ program, which can be reflected in college applications and recommendations. - Students will receive a special diploma seal and honors cord at graduation.

Advanced Placement Choice (APC+)

Frequently Asked Questions



➤What is the AP Choice Program?

The AP Choice Program is a structured pre-AP program for academically talented and highly motivated students. Our mission is to guide, to inspire and to recognize students who pursue a specific program of academic excellence. The AP Choice+ Program offers students academic challenges and introduces them to college-level work. Students entering the APC+ Program in ninth grade take several Pre-AP courses to introduce them to the demands of college-level work and to prepare them for Advanced Placement classes. Throughout their high school years, APC+ students have the opportunity to earn college credits and/or advanced course placement in college. Students will also receive an APC+ seal on their diploma and honor cord at graduation. Requirements for this program include a **minimum of 6 total AP courses**. **Students must take at least 1 AP course each year and maintain a 3.0 unweighted GPA.** **Students must complete all APC+ cohort courses during their ninth and tenth grade years at TCHS.**

➤ How has the program evolved to include more options for students?

The APC program is now the APC+ program to give our students more options to advance their education and excel. The “plus” now includes APC+ courses, AP courses, AP Capstone courses and Dual-Enrollment courses. We are excited to give students more opportunities each year to further their educational opportunities.

At the end of the 10th grade year, students will have the option to continue to the **AP Capstone track** with the opportunity to receive a nationally recognized **AP Capstone Diploma** upon completion of the College Board requirements. The other option would be to continue on the **AP Choice track** and take AP courses and Dual-Enrollment courses. This track would not allow students to receive a diploma upon completion, but the students will still be recognized as completing one of the most rigorous programs that the school can offer. On both tracks students will receive a seal on their diploma, as well as a cord for graduation.

➤What is Advanced Placement and what are AP classes?

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program was created by The College Board in 1955. It offers 38 college-level courses and exams in 19 different subject areas. These AP classes are taught by specially trained teachers whose curriculum and teaching are supported by the College Board. Students take AP classes in high school and sit for an exam at the end of the year. Students may earn college credits depending on their exam score and the policies of the college they plan to attend. The AP Program is internationally recognized.

➤What are the benefits of AP classes?

AP classes provide opportunities to earn college credit while in high school. More importantly, they develop the academic skills necessary for success in college. The likelihood of a student finishing a 4 year degree program almost doubles after taking only one AP class in high school. In addition, students are offered a more challenging curriculum which increases students' self-confidence, motivation and academic orientation. Colleges and universities want to see that students have taken college-level coursework in high school.

➤What is the difference between AP and AP Choice?

All TCHS students are encouraged to challenge themselves by taking AP courses; however, different individuals may be ready for AP courses at different times. The APC+ Program is developed for students who are ready both academically and developmentally when they are freshmen. Non-APC+ students do take AP classes; however, they are not required to take the same pre-AP courses and number of AP courses that APC+ students commit to take.

➤What is the AP Capstone Program?

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. AP Capstone is comprised of two AP courses — **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** — and is designed to complement and enhance the discipline-specific study in other AP courses.

As of the 2017 school year, TCHS is an approved Capstone school. What does this mean? Students can now earn a nationally recognized **AP Capstone Diploma** on successful completion of the program its requirements. Students enrolled in the APC+ program do not need to apply additionally to the AP Capstone program, but will have the option to continue to the Capstone program after sophomore year.

Students in the program are able to earn an AP Capstone diploma by meeting the following criteria:

- ✓ Pass the AP exams for both AP Seminar (11th grade) and AP Research (12th grade)
- ✓ Pass 4 other AP exams

Please visit the AP Capstone website for more information:

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

➤What AP Courses does TCHS offer?

TCHS currently offers 38 AP Courses for students.

The below list is subject to change depending on course availability for the year...

AP Math: Statistics, Calculus AB and BC (prerequisites required)

AP Science: Biology, Environmental, Chemistry

Physics (4 courses): Physics 1, Physics 2, Physics C: Mechanics and Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism

AP English: English Language & Composition (11th) and English Literature & Composition (12th)

AP History: Psychology, Art History, US Government, Comparative Government, US History, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, World History, Human Geography, and European History

AP Language: Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, French, German and Chinese

AP Arts: Computer Science Principles, Computer Science A, Music Theory, Studio Art: 2D, Studio Art: 3D, Studio Art: Drawing

Capstone: AP Seminar (11th) and AP Research (12th)

AP Course Descriptions: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse>

➤What are the characteristics of an APC+ student?

- Are you an avid reader?
- In your classes, do you complete assignments thoroughly and on time?
- Can you work without constant monitoring by a teacher or a parent?
- Can you be assigned large blocks of work and be relied upon to complete them?
- Are you curious about academic pursuits in general?
- Are you willing to commit to taking the most rigorous curriculum TCHS offers?

➤How are APC+, AP and Honors courses weighted?

- Regular classes are weighted on a 4 pt scale
- Honors/APC+ are weighted on a 5 pt scale
- AP weighted on 6 pt scale

➤ **If Honors and APC+ courses are weighted the same, what is the benefit to my GPA to be in the APC+ Program, especially in terms of college admissions?**

There are three major benefits to being in the APC+ Program:

1. Along with considering a student's GPA for college admissions, colleges also ask: *Did the student take the most rigorous coursework available at their school?* The APC+ Program and Capstone Program are the most rigorous programs available at TCHS.
2. Students who take APC+ courses tend to make higher grades in the AP classes, so the impact on their GPA is much stronger.
3. APC+ students tend to score higher on AP exams, FSA, SAT and ACT, which are important components of the college admissions decision.

➤ **What do I need to know about the end-of-year AP exam?**

AP exams are administered in May. AP exams are administered only for AP courses, not APC+ courses. Exam dates are listed on the College Board website; dates and locations will also be listed on the Timber Creek website. You are required to take the exam for each AP course you register for and should not make any other plans or appointments on the dates of your exams.

➤ **Where can I find more resources about AP?**

Visit <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap> for more information about AP classes and exams.

➤ **Can I take Dual-Enrollment courses and be in the APC+ Program?** Yes! Students can begin taking Dual-Enrollment classes in their Junior year. Students must have a 3.0 unweighted GPA and college-ready test scores (PERT, SAT, ACT...) to be eligible to participate. Dual-Enrollment is where students take college classes through Valencia, UF or UCF to earn both high school and college credit. Students can start taking Dual-Enrollment when they meet the eligibility requirements and are ready to start a college transcript. Please visit the TCHS website for Dual-Enrollment meeting dates or contact Mrs. Simon-Savage for more details.

➤ **What is the best way to contact Mrs. Abromavage if I have questions or concerns? What if my student has questions?**

Please contact Mrs. Abromavage by e-mail at dorothea.abromavage@ocps.net

➤ **What is next?**

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit the application The deadline for APC+ applications is March 1, 2021. ● Essay directions are on the next page of the packet. Students must complete an essay to be considered for the program.
2	You will receive a letter notifying you of our decision at the end of March.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If accepted, sign and return the APC+ contract. Acceptance to the program is not finalized until we receive the contract. ● Guidance counselors will update student schedule requests to reflect the program classes.

APC+ Application Directions

Application: Students will complete an electronic application that will be due on March 1, 2021 for consideration.

Application Link: <https://tinyurl.com/APCApplication2020-2021>

Homeschool/Private School students: You must submit comparable scores for a standardized test taken in middle school, if a state test was not taken, such as the PSAT/SAT. Also, please submit a report card for the first quarter of this year, as well as an overall report card that reflects the final GPA at the end of 7th grade. You will be asked to submit these documents to the electronic application.

Essay:

To be accepted into the program, students must submit an application by the deadline, and also complete the essay component. Students will be given an AP-style essay prompt, and will have up to 1 hour to complete the essay digitally. A 15 minute planning period/buffer will be added, at the beginning, into the time for students.

Students will complete the essay at home, and will need a computer with internet capabilities and Microsoft Word. There are steps that need to be taken prior to the essay session. Please see the specific directions on the following page.

Date	Prompt Opens	Essay Due
Tuesday, February 9 th	7:15 AM	8:30 AM
Wednesday, February 10 th	5:45 PM	7:00 PM
Thursday, February 11 th	7:15 AM	8:30 AM
Tuesday, February 23 rd	7:15 AM	8:30 AM
Wednesday, February 24 th	5:45 PM	7:00 PM
Thursday, February 25 th	7:15 AM	8:30 AM

The essay prompt is given to demonstrate the student's writing ability in a timed writing situation. Students will not be able to prepare ahead of the essay night. Each essay session will have a different prompt. Students should focus on what the prompt is asking and write to their best ability.

A student cannot submit an essay that is not assigned to the date/time that they are submitting under. Students cannot seek help from an adult or another student in the writing of the essay. Parents cannot assist students in their response. The response must be completely student generated, and display the student's personal writing skills.

Students will pick only one essay session to complete.

Important: If a student is suspected of plagiarism, cheating, seeking assistance, sharing prompts, essays or information then their application will be voided.

Specific Essay Directions

Students will be able to access the prompt and requirements for the essay through the following Google Form link:

Essay Prompt Link: <http://tinyurl.com/APCVirtualEssay2021>

Access Code: APC2025

You will not be able to access the prompt until the date and time that the prompt opens. Each session will have a different essay prompt.

Writing Steps:

1. Prepare your work station prior to the essay session start time. You will need:
 - a. Computer
 - b. Microsoft Word
 - c. Google Form link (above)
2. Open the Google Form link, fill in the initial information and enter the access code (above) at the time that the session starts.
3. Read through the prompt and directions carefully. An extra 15 minutes have been built in to read through the information and prepare.
4. Open a new Word document and type essay.
5. Save your essay and attach it to the Google Form before the submission deadline.
6. Make sure the Google Form is completely submitted by the deadline.

The students will need to fill out the Google Form and the access code to view the prompts and directions for the essay. Once the essay is written, students will then submit the completed essay to the Google Form before the deadline stated on the previous page.

Important Notes:

- **Access will not be available until the prompt officially opens for essay security.** If you try to access the prompt and directions through the Google Form before this date, it will be disabled.
- Students will only have 1 hour to write the essay with a 15 minute planning/buffer period built in. Students must submit a completed essay before the deadline through the Google Form. Failure to submit the essay at that time will require the student to take part in one of the sessions below.
- Essays will only be accepted through the Google Form during the virtual essay night. Please do not email essays. Essays will not be accepted via email. If you have technical difficulties then you will need to write the essay during a different session.
- Different essay prompts will be given at each of the essay writing opportunities.

Important:

An essay must be completed to be considered for the program. If you cannot attend the essay times, please contact Mrs. Abromavage.

Students must fill out the online application and complete the virtual essay. Both are through Google Forms online, and both must be completed to be considered for the program.