



## The Oaks

*A Classical Christian Academy*

Office of the Director of College Counseling

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DATE: March 5, 2019

FROM: Lynn Gibson

TO: Junior and Senior class students and parents

RE: AP Exam

I want to make you aware of an opportunity to take the Advanced Placement exam this May through Lewis and Clark High School. While The Oaks has made an intentional decision not to offer AP classes, our students are welcome to take any AP exam offered. I have attached a letter from Lewis and Clark High with a list of all the exams offered, as well as a registration form.

In past years, our students have done well on these tests. Specifically, several of our students have passed the English Literature and English Language exams. They fit our school's literature curriculum quite well and may be a good option. Several of our students have also taken AP Statistics or Calculus AB at the end of their junior or senior years in an attempt to gain college credit.

There are also AP exams offered in subjects such as European History, U.S. History, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry which you may want to consider if you enjoy these subjects and have done well in them at The Oaks. Some of these tests will take extra study; I have prep books in my office.

Here are some answers to the questions you may have:

### **Why should I consider taking an AP exam?**

1) Juniors: AP exams on a transcript are sometimes advantageous in the college admissions process. Some colleges realize that since The Oaks does not offer AP courses, taking an AP exam demonstrates a student's initiative and also a student's ability to study toward a curriculum-specific test even though our Oaks' instruction (unlike an AP class) does not "teach to the test."

If a student passes three AP exams (scoring 3, 4, or 5 on a 0-5 scale), the student is recognized as an AP Scholar, which is a notable accomplishment on a college application.

2) Seniors: At some colleges, you can receive college credit for passing an AP exam, scoring a "3" and above. This will enable you to waive the need to take the equivalent college course during freshman year (Freshman English Composition, for example). So, for these participating colleges, passing an AP exam will save you money (and time) in the long run. Each university handles AP credit differently; you will want to check out a specific college to understand how it treats AP exam scores. [This link](#) will provide you an easy way to determine whether, or how a specific college awards AP credit:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>

**Who will see my AP scores?** You will and The Oaks will. No colleges will see your scores if you put "undecided" in the area marked "recipient." Once you see your score, you can choose to

send a grade report to the college of your choice for a nominal fee. You may certainly list your AP exam score(s) on your college applications before sending the official score sheet to your intended college.

**How much does it cost?** Each exam is \$94.

**What are the dates?**

The AP exams are scheduled one morning (or afternoon) during the weeks of **May 6 and May 13**, depending on which AP exam you take. The schedule is attached to this email.

**How long is the exam?** Most of the exams are around 3 hours, but the entire morning requires about four hours.

**Where are the exams administered?** Lewis and Clark High School administers the test on the Riverpoint campus downtown. **Room assignments and a map of the campus will be forthcoming.**

**What are the differences between the English Language and the English Literature tests?**

[From the guide book] “The *English Language and Composition exam* tests students’ skills in analyzing prose passages and asks them to demonstrate their composition skills by writing essays in various rhetorical modes. One of the three free-response questions requires students to synthesize information from a variety of sources (which are provided) to inform their own discussions of a topic.”

“The *English Literature and Composition exam* tests students’ skills in analyzing selected poems and prose passages, as well as their ability to write critical or analytical essays based on poems, prose passages, novels or plays.” (All sources are provided).

**Do I have to study for these exams?** Our curriculum has adequately prepared you to attempt some of the AP exams without any further study. Our students have done well on the Literature exams by merely becoming familiar with the format of the tests. Other exams are quite difficult; I have prep books in my office you may check out for study.

**How does the AP exam differ from the SAT, SAT Subject test, and ACT test?**

- 1) We do not require students to take the AP exam for graduation. **We do require that students take the SAT test once by graduation.**
- 2) Taking the SAT or the ACT test is an admission requirement for most colleges and universities. Taking the SAT Subject test is also an admission requirement at some selective schools. **Taking the AP exam is not an admission requirement**, but at some selective schools is noteworthy and for other colleges your students may receive credits for passing exams scores.

**DEADLINE for registration is **March 20**, at the LC Business office. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** As always, feel free to call me with questions, 536-5955 x293.

Thank you, *Lynn Gibson*

Lynn Gibson  
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Attachments:

- AP Letter from Lewis & Clark High
- AP Registration Form (you must register in person at LC)