



**The Oaks**

*A Classical Christian Academy*

**Office of the Director of College Counseling**

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DATE: Oct. 29, 2019

FROM: Lynn Gibson, Director of College and Career Counseling

TO: Sophomore, Junior, and Senior class students and parents

RE: AP Exams

I want to make you aware of an opportunity to take the Advanced Placement exam this May and, for the first time, **all AP exams will be proctored here at The Oaks**. While The Oaks has made a conscious decision not to offer AP classes, our students are welcome to take any AP exam offered. I have attached the exam schedule as well as a registration form.

**PLEASE NOTE: Tuesday, Nov. 12 is the AP exam registration deadline.** Please bring registration form and payment to the school office by that day. (Checks should be made out to The Oaks).

[This early deadline is a **significant change by the CollegeBoard**. In past years, the registration deadline has always been in late winter.]

**Here are some answers to the questions you may have:**

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

1) Sophomores and Juniors: AP exams on a transcript are advantageous in the college admissions process. Selective schools like to see on your application that you've taken AP exams, so I would recommend doing this if you are planning to apply to a selective school (Ivy League colleges, Stanford, University of Washington, or other top tier schools). It is viewed favorably—as are SAT Subject tests. If you take, and pass, three AP exams, you are recognized as an AP Scholar. Sophomores may want to take the AP Chemistry exam in May while the material is still fresh.

2) Seniors: At some colleges, you can receive college credit for passing an AP exam, scoring a “3” and above (on a 1-5 scale). 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 they treat AP exam scores. **This link** will provide you an easy way to determine how a specific college awards AP credit:

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

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 and may be a good option. Several of our students have also taken AP 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.

**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 will send your official score to the one college you decide to attend. 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 4 and May 11**, depending on which AP exam you take. The schedule is attached with this letter.

**How long is the exam?**

Most of the exams are around 3 hours. Administering the exams at The Oaks will reduce the test duration.

**Where will the exams be administered?**

We will administrate the AP exams at The Oaks in a location to be determined.

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

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. 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 with the exams).

**Do I have to study for these exams?**

Yes, it is recommended that you check out an AP study book from the library or from my office to become familiar with the format of the exam and the material you will be tested on.

**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 prior to 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 colleges. **Taking the AP exam is not an admission requirement**, but at some competitive schools is highly recommended.

**DEADLINE for registration is Tuesday, Nov. 12, in the school office. Please bring registration form and payment (checks should be made out to The Oaks).**

I am happy to answer further questions, 509-230-7697; or email: [lynn.gibson@theoakscga.org](mailto:lynn.gibson@theoakscga.org)

Sincerely,  
Lynn Gibson