The Oaks

A Classical Christian Academy

Office of the Director of College Counseling

DATE: Sept. 30, 2025

FROM: Lynn Gibson, Director of College and Career Counseling
TO: 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 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. The exam fee is $99.

Register on Annasis: Deadline is Friday, Oct. 31

Here are some answers to the questions you may have:

Why should students consider taking an AP exam?
1) 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 (< 30% admit rate). If you take, and pass, three AP exams, you are recognized as an AP Scholar.

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 with an easy way to determine how a specific college awards AP credit:

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

Several of 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 Pre-Calculus at the end of their junior year in an attempt to gain college credit. There are also AP exams offered in subjects such as European History, U.S. History, and Physics 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. Juniors, you may certainly list your AP exam score(s) on your college applications next fall before sending the official score sheet to your intended college.

How much does it cost?
Each exam is $99.

Some families are eligible for a reduced fee of $62 per exam if they qualify under USDA income guidelines based on family size. See Mrs. Gibson for details.

What if I decide to register closer to exam day?
It will cost you more. Any registrations received after Oct. 31 will be charged a $40 late fee in addition to the exam fee. No late registrations will be accepted after March 13, 2026.

What if I cancel my exam?
If a student cannot or does not choose to take the exam in May after registering for the exam, a refund will be credited to the student's account less a $40 cancellation fee.

What are the dates?
Each AP exam is scheduled one morning (or afternoon) during the week of May 4-8 and May 11-15, depending on the exam. You can find the schedule on Annasis.

How long is the exam?
Most of the exams are around 3 hours.

Where will the exams be administered?
We will administrate the AP exams at The Oaks.

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 you check out an AP study book from my office to become familiar with the format of the exam and the material you will be tested on. Free online prep is offered at khanacademy.org.

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

1) Taking the SAT or the ACT test is an admission requirement for many colleges and universities. **Taking the AP exam is not an admission requirement**, but at some competitive schools is highly recommended.