



The Oaks
A Classical Christian Academy
Office of the Director of College Counseling

DATE: Oct. 29, 2020

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 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: Wednesday, Nov. 11 is the AP registration deadline.

Please bring the attached registration form to the school office by that day. You only need to bring the registration form; payment will not be collected until May.

Here are some answers to the questions you may have:

Why should students 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 who enjoy Chemistry this year 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>

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 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. 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 \$95.

Some families are eligible for a reduced fee of \$53 per exam if they qualify under USDA income guidelines based on family size. See attached for details. If you qualify, simply check the box on the registration form.

What if I decide to register closer to exam day?

It will cost you more. Any registrations received after Nov. 1 will be charged a \$40 late fee in addition to the exam fee. No late registrations will be accepted after March 12, 2021.

What if I cancel my exam?

This year only, no cancellation fees will be applied if a student cannot or does not choose to take the exam in May.

What are the dates?

Each AP exam is scheduled one morning (or afternoon) during the weeks of **May 3 and May 10**, 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.

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 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.

AP Fee Reduction Policy

A student is eligible for a reduced AP exam fee of \$53 if the family falls within these income guidelines based on size of family unit. Proof of eligibility is not required, but documentation should be kept on hand by the family in case the CollegeBoard asks the AP Coordinator (Mrs. Lynn Gibson) to provide it.

If your student is eligible for the reduced fee, please check the box on the registration form.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2020-21

The following table lists annual family income, by family size, at 185% of the poverty level. If the student's annual family income falls within the amount listed in the relevant row and column, that student qualifies for an AP Exam fee reduction.

Size of Family Unit	Annual Family Income* for 48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam, and Territories	Annual Family Income* for Alaska	Annual Family Income* for Hawaii
1	\$23,606	\$29,508	\$27,158
2	\$31,894	\$39,868	\$36,686
3	\$40,182	\$50,228	\$46,213
4	\$48,470	\$60,588	\$55,741
5	\$56,758	\$70,948	\$65,268
6	\$65,046	\$81,308	\$74,796
7	\$73,334	\$91,668	\$84,323
8	\$81,622	\$102,028	\$93,851
For each additional family member, add:	\$8,288	\$10,360	\$9,528

*The figures shown under annual family income represent amounts equal to 185% of the 2020 Federal income poverty guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These levels were published by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service in the Federal Register, Vol. 85, No. 55, 3/20/20, pp. 16050-53. These Income Eligibility Guidelines are effective from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

2021 AP Exam Calendar

May 3–7 and May 10–14, 2021

Week 1	Morning 8 a.m. Local Time	Afternoon 12 noon Local Time	Afternoon 2 p.m. Local Time
Monday, May 3, 2021	United States Government and Politics	Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Tuesday, May 4, 2021	Calculus AB Calculus BC	German Language and Culture Human Geography	
Wednesday, May 5, 2021	English Literature and Composition	Japanese Language and Culture Physics 1: Algebra-Based	
Thursday, May 6, 2021	United States History	Art History Computer Science A	
Friday, May 7, 2021	Chemistry Spanish Literature and Culture	European History Physics 2: Algebra-Based	

2021 AP Exam Calendar

Week 2	Morning 8 a.m. Local Time	Afternoon 12 noon Local Time
Monday, May 10, 2021	French Language and Culture World History: Modern	Macroeconomics
Tuesday, May 11, 2021	Seminar Spanish Language and Culture	Latin Psychology
Wednesday, May 12, 2021	English Language and Composition	Microeconomics Music Theory
Thursday, May 13, 2021	Comparative Government and Politics Computer Science Principles	Statistics
Friday, May 14, 2021	Biology Italian Language and Culture	Chinese Language and Culture Environmental Science