INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL A.P. STUDENTS & PARENTS/GUARDIANS 2018-2019

St. Monica Catholic High School

WELCOME PARENTS & STUDENTS TO THE 2018-2019 A.P. PRESENTATION…

Students, congratulations !

If you are viewing this presentation it means you have been academically successful this year and are considering challenging your self in the upcoming year by taking one or more Advanced Placement courses. This presentation is intended to inform you and your parents about what it means to be an "AP student" so you can make solid choices and begin the year prepared to succeed.

Please be sure both you and your parent/guardian view the general portion of the presentation as well as the slides that correspond to the course(s) in which you intend to enroll. You will need to return the signed AP Signature form with your registration form on Registration Day, March 28.

Parents/Guardians, congratulation to you, too!

We know parental support is key to student success! We hope this presentation is helpful as you assist your son/daughter in selecting the best course of study for the upcoming year. Thank you for taking the time to view this presentation and discussing course choices. We are looking forward to a great 2017-2018 school year!

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT MS. MARTINEZ, THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON, AND/OR THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT ADVANCED PLACEMENT!

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THE INTENTION OF THIS PRESENTATION

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

The goal of this slide presentation is to provide the information necessary to ensure students and parents are well informed regarding the necessary qualifications, requirements, expectations, benefits, and challenges of AP coursework and the AP exams. The desired outcome is to prepare students, with the guidance and support of their parents, to make an informed decision about whether or not their academic program should include one or more AP courses. Please view the general slides and the selection of slides corresponding to the courses of interest.

Thank you!

WHY AP?

CollegeBoard
Advanced Placement Program

Students take AP courses to…

- gain a competitive advantage in college admissions
- earn college credit for qualifying AP Exam scores (check individual universities for specific information about what courses/scores are accepted)
- realize time and financial savings (being allowed to "skip" introductory college level courses-thus saving time and tuition $$ at many universities)
- prepare for college-level work
- experience greater depth of study which can provide the following benefits: address academic interests, provide a greater academic challenge, develop higher level academic skills, help clarify possible college majors

HONORS VS. ADVANCED PLACEMENT ~ARE THEY *REALLY* DIFFERENT?

YES!

Honors courses are *HIGH SCHOOL* courses:

- These courses are based on high school curriculum/standards, using high school-level textbooks, with content, pacing and assessments designed by the teacher/department of the school, thus allowing flexibility in the planning and execution of the curriculum.

Advanced Placement courses are *COLLEGE* courses:

- AP courses are based on college-level curriculum/standards, using college-level textbooks and supplemental materials, with content, pacing and assessment designed by the College Board. SMCHS commits to covering the material at the depth and rigor set forth by the College Board. Teachers cannot adjust the curriculum.
- AP courses require at least 30% more work than college preparatory courses.

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN *A.P.* ….

- ***Student:***
- Motivation
- Commitment
- Responsibility
- Time Management
- Academic Preparation:
  ~content knowledge
  ~advanced study, critical thinking, reading & writing skills

- ***Parent:***
- Knowledge of A.P. expectations
- Willingness to support son/daughter with prioritizing A.P.
- Providing additional academic support (tutoring, enabling attendance at study sessions, etc.)

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Students must…

- earn required grades in pre-requisite courses
- earn required scores on qualifying exams
- complete all summer assignments
- maintain a grade of B or higher at the semester
- take the AP Exam in May (additional charge of $95)
- meet specific additional time commitments
  - Pre-registration meeting
  - Saturday or evening study sessions/practice tests
  - Homework over holiday breaks
  - Science: “Zero Period” once in 6 class days

~A.P. COURSE INFORMATION~

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO FIND THE SPECIFIC COURSE(S) IN WHICH YOUR SON/DAUGHTER MIGHT ENROLL.

- **Computer Science**: AP Computer Science Principles (Department Chair: Mr. Spellman)
- **English:** English Language, English Literature (Department Chair: Dr. Salisberry)
- **Math:** Calculus AB (Department Chair: Mr.Spellman)
- **Science:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics I (Department Chair: Dr. Phillips)
- **Social Studies**: European History, US History, US Government (Dept. Chair: Mr. Anderson)
- **World Languages**: Spanish Language (Department Chair: Mr. Oliveros)

A.P. COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

"Computer Science Principles (APCSP) introduces students to the central ideas of computer science, inviting students to develop the **computational thinking** vital for success across multiple disciplines. The course is unique in its focus on fostering students to be **creative** and encouraging students to apply creative processes when developing **computational artifacts**. Students design and implement innovative solutions using an iterative process similar to what artists, writers, computer scientists, and engineers use to bring ideas to life."

AP Computer Science students must be able and willing to work both collaboratively and independently in and out of class time.

Pre-requisites for APCSP: Minimum of B- in both Geometry and World History

All APCSP students are required to take the AP exam in May. There is a fee of $95 for the exam.

WHY A.P. COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES?

Computer science education is changing rapidly and this course is bringing computer science to a wide range students in an exciting way

Previously, too many students were turned off by introductory computer science courses

- This course is inclusive, with a goal of reaching a wide demographic
- This course is geared toward creative, as well as detail-oriented students
- While a high level of interest is necessary, specific coursework in computer science is not

A.P. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

BENEFITS: COLLEGE CREDIT AND PREPARATION

- Students who achieve a score of 3 or higher on the AP Language and Composition or AP Literature and Composition will receive college credit at UC, CSU, and most private universities.
- Through this course, you will become a more skilled reader and writer.

WHAT WILL I DO IN THIS COURSE?

This is a college level rhetoric and writing course.

- You will write analytical and argumentative essays.
- You will evaluative, synthesize, and cite evidence to support your arguments.
- You will read and analyze the rhetorical elements of non-fiction texts including images.

PREREQUISITES

- Students currently in College Prep English 10 must score 90% or higher each semester and pass the qualifying exam.
- Students currently in English 10 Honors must score 80% or higher both semesters.

EXPECTATIONS

- You will complete reading and writing assignments throughout the year, including over weekends and vacations.
- You should enjoy reading and be eager to challenge yourself.
- Sit for the AP exam in May. There is a fee of $95.

A.P. ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

BENEFITS: COLLEGE CREDIT AND PREPARATION

- Students who achieve a score of 3 or higher on the AP Language and Composition exam or AP Literature and Composition exam will receive college credit at UC, CSU, and most private universities.
- Through this course, you will become a more skilled reader and writer.

WHAT WILL I DO IN THIS COURSE?

This is a college level literature course.

- You will read and analyze various genres of fiction (novels, poetry, drama) from many periods and places.
- As you read, you will consider a work's structure, style and themes and deepen your understanding of the ways writers use language.
- You will interpret and analyze literary works through expository, analytical, and argumentative essays.

PREREQUISITES

- Students currently in College Prep English 11 must score 90% or higher each semester and pass the qualifying exam.
- Students currently in AP English Language and Composition must score 80% or higher both semesters.

EXPECTATIONS

- You will complete reading and writing assignments throughout the year, including over weekends and vacations.
- You should enjoy reading and be eager to challenge yourself.
- Sit for the AP exam in May . There is a fee of $95.

A.P. CALCULUS A/B

AP CALCULUS STUDENTS WILL…*LEARN PROBLEM SOLVING METHODS THAT YOU CAN APPLY ACROSS REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS INVOLVING THEOREMS, DEFINITIONS, AND FUNCTIONS REPRESENTED IN DIFFERENT WAYS. TECHNOLOGY WILL BE USED TO EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT, INTERPRET RESULTS, AND SUPPORT YOUR CONCLUSIONS*

Students who enroll in Advanced Placement Calculus A/B do so understanding that they will have to meet the high standards of performance required of Advanced Placement courses which are set at entry college level. Students will experience a faster pace and greater depth than previously experienced in the study of math.

Enrollment in Advanced Placement Calculus will

- require significantly more homework, sometimes more than twice as much work, a college preparatory or honors math class. However quality, not quantity is the goal for homework. Homework is not limited to the work assigned by the teacher, but also includes additional study and practice determined by each student to keep pace with course expectations.
- require a higher level of performance in the quality of student work to earn the same grade as in the corresponding college preparatory or honors math course.
- require significantly more student independence and responsibility in the completion of required work.
- result in a sense of accomplishment and preparation for the AP exam if students are fully committed to the course.

The opportunity to be in an Advanced Placement class carries with it certain assumptions about the capabilities and maturity of high school students who will now be doing college level work. It is hoped that students are primarily motivated by an appreciation for the subject and secondarily by increasing their GPA.

~Students are expected to be **independent learners**, willing to read, learn, ask questions of the text, pursue outside reading and research, integrate and discuss material from diverse sources.

~Students should be prepared to **complete some work over the summer** which is like a pre-calculus review.

~Students should spend, on average, **approximately one hour of outside study for each AP class per school day** and frequently to devote additional time on weekends, over holidays, etc.

~Students should always **attend class, take tests, and turn in assignments on time.**

~Students should accept that enrollment in an AP course does not guarantee an A or B grade in the course.

~Students should **accept gracefully assignments, suggestions, and coaching** from the teacher.

~Students should know they must **commit to additional time outside of class** for practice exams and additional AP exam preparation in the spring.

~Students are required to sit for the AP Calculus exam in May. There is an exam fee of $95.

SCIENCE:
A.P. BIOLOGY

PREREQUISITES

1. Successful completion of Biology with at least an A- both semesters OR Biology Honors with at least a B- both semesters AND successful completion of Chemistry with at least an A- both semesters OR Chemistry Honors with at least a B- both semesters

AND

2. Passing score on qualifying exam (only students who fulfill Prerequisite 1 are permitted to take the qualifying exam).

REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend a zero period lab approximately every six classes. Your attendance is mandatory.
2. Complete Summer Assignment (to be turned in the first day of class).
3. Maintain a minimum grade of B- at the end of the Fall semester. Students who do not obtain at least a B- will be dropped from the class.
4. Be prepared to work hard and spend time outside of school completing assignments and studying .
5. Sit for the AP Biology exam. ($95 fee)

SCIENCE:
A.P. BIOLOGY

LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS

1. The AP Biology Course requires that 25% of the instructional time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work.
2. An emphasis will be placed on inquiry-based investigations which require students to ask questions, make observations and predictions, design experiments, analyze data, and construct arguments in a collaborative setting, where students direct and monitor their progress.

SAMPLE LAB INVESTIGATIONS

- Artificial selection
- Mathematical modeling: Hardy-Weinberg
- Comparing DNA sequences to understand evolutionary relationships
- Diffusion and osmosis
- Photosynthesis
- Cellular respiration
- Cell division: mitosis and meiosis
- Biotechnology: bacterial transformation
- Biotechnology: restriction enzyme analysis of DNA
- Energy dynamics
- Transpiration
- Fruit fly behavior
- Enzyme activity

SCIENCE:
A.P. CHEMISTRY

PREREQUISITES

1. Successful completion of Chemistry with at least an A- both semesters OR Chemistry Honors with at least a B- both semesters

AND

2. Concurrent enrollment in Pre-Calculus or Calculus

AND

3. Passing score on qualifying exam (only students who fulfill Prerequisite 1 are permitted to take the qualifying exam).

REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend a zero period lab approximately every six classes. Your attendance is mandatory.
2. Complete Summer Assignment (to be turned in according to the calendar provided).
3. Maintain a minimum grade of B- at the end of the Fall semester. Students who do not obtain at least a B- will be dropped from the class.
4. Be prepared to work hard and spend time outside of school completing assignments and studying in preparation for the AP exam which all AP Chemistry students are required to take. ($95 fee).

SCIENCE:
A.P. CHEMISTRY

COURSE CONTENT

The key concepts and related content that define the AP Chemistry course and exam are organized around underlying principles called the Big Ideas. They encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about the particulate nature of matter underlying the observations students make about the physical world. The following are Big Ideas:

a. The chemical elements are the building blocks of matter, which can be understood in terms of the arrangements of atoms.
b. Chemical and physical properties of materials can be explained by the structure and the arrangement of atoms, ions, or molecules and the forces between them.
c. Changes in matter involve the rearrangement and/or reorganization of atoms and/or the transfer of electrons.
d. Rates of chemical reactions are determined by details of the molecular collisions.
e. The laws of thermodynamics describe the essential role of energy and explain and predict the direction of changes in matter.
f. Bonds or attractions that can be formed can be broken. These two processes are in constant competition, sensitive to initial conditions and external forces or changes.

Students establish lines of evidence and use them to develop and refine testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena. Focusing on these disciplinary practices enables teachers to use the principles of scientific inquiry to promote a more engaging and rigorous experience for AP Chemistry students. Such practices require that students:

a. Use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems;
b. Use mathematics appropriately;
c. Engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course;
d. Plan and implement data collection strategies in relation to a particular scientific question;
e. Perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence;
f. Work with scientific explanations and theories; and
g. Connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.

SCIENCE:
A.P. CHEMISTRY

LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS

- The AP Chemistry Course requires that 25% of the instructional time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work.
- An emphasis will be placed on inquiry-based investigations which require students to ask questions, make observations and predictions, design experiments, analyze data, and construct arguments in a collaborative setting, where students direct and monitor their progress.

SAMPLE OF POSSIBLE LAB INVESTIGATIONS

- Analysis of food dyes in beverages
- Percent copper in brass
- Gravimetric analysis of calcium and hard water
- Acidity of beverages
- Separation of a dye mixture using chromatography
- Qualitative analysis and chemical bonding
- Green chemistry analysis of a mixture
- Analysis of hydrogen peroxide
- Separating a synthetic pain relief mixture
- Rate of decomposition of calcium carbonate
- Kinetics of crystal violet fading
- Designing a hand warmer
- Applications of LeChatelier's Principle
- Acid-Base titrations
- Buffers in household products
- Properties of buffer solutions

SCIENCE:
A.P. PHYSICS 1

PREREQUISITES

1. Successful completion of Chemistry with at least an A- both semesters OR Chemistry Honors with at least a B- both semesters AND a B- in math

AND

2. Concurrent enrollment in Pre-Calculus or Calculus

AND

3. Passing score on qualifying exam (only students who fulfill Prerequisite 1 are permitted to take the qualifying exam).

REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend a zero period lab approximately every six classes. Your attendance is mandatory.
2. Complete Summer Assignment (to be turned in the first day of class).
3. Maintain a minimum grade of B- at the end of the Fall semester. Students who do not obtain at least a B- will be dropped from the class.
4. Be prepared to work hard and spend time outside of school completing assignments and studying .
5. Take the AP exam ($95 fee)

SCIENCE:
A.P. PHYSICS 1

COURSE CONTENT

Students explore principles of Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. The course is based on six Big Ideas, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about the physical world. The following are the six Big Ideas:

- Objects and systems have properties such as mass and charge. Systems may have internal structure.
- Fields existing in space can be used to explain interactions.
- The interactions of an object with other objects can be described by forces.
- Interactions between systems can result in changes in those systems.
- Changes that occur as a result of interactions are constrained by conservation laws.
- Waves can transfer energy and momentum from one location to another without the permanent transfer of mass and serve as a mathematical model for the description of other phenomena.

Students establish lines of evidence and use them to develop and refine testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena. Focusing on these disciplinary practices enables teachers to use the principles of scientific inquiry to promote a more engaging and rigorous experience for AP Physics students. Such practices require that students:

Use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems;

- Use mathematics appropriately;
- Engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course;
- Plan and implement data collection strategies in relation to a particular scientific question;
- Perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence;
- Work with scientific explanations and theories; and
- Connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.

SCIENCE:
A.P. PHYSICS 1

LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS

- The AP Physics 1 Course requires that 25% of the instructional time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work.
- An emphasis will be placed on inquiry-based investigations which require students to ask questions, make observations and predictions, design experiments, analyze data, and construct arguments in a collaborative setting, where students direct and monitor their progress.

SAMPLE LAB INVESTIGATIONS

- 1D and 2D Kinematics
- Newton's Second Law
- Circular motion
- Conservation of energy
- Impulse and momentum
- Harmonic motion
- Rotational motion
- Mechanical waves
- Resistor circuits
- Work on an inclined plane
- Average force of impact in a rebounding collision
- Simple harmonic motion
- Speed of waves on a helical spring
- Harmonics and sound quality
- Standing waves in pipes
- Coulomb's Law problems
- The Doppler Effect
- Orbits of satellites

SOCIAL STUDIES:
A.P. WORLD HISTORY

PREREQUISITES

1. Students must earn a grade of B- or better in their most current English class.
2. Because there is to College Prep Social Studies course for freshman, students will have the opportunity to take the qualifying exam if they (1) have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of their first semester and (2) have a B- in their most recent English class.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Students should be willing to dedicate an extensive amount of time for studying and completing assignments.
2. Complete Summer Assignment (to be turned in the first day of class).
3. Maintain a minimum grade of B- at the end of the Fall semester. Students who do not obtain at least a B- will be placed in College Prep. World History.
4. Attend scheduled practice exam dates (typically on Saturdays in April).
4. Sit for the AP exam in May. ($95 fee)

SOCIAL STUDIES:
A.P. WORLD HISTORY

Course Overview

1. Student will improve History Disciplinary Practices:
   a. Analyzing Historical Evidence
   b. Argument Development
2. Students will develop History Reasoning Skills:
   a. Contextualization
   b. Comparison
   c. Causation
   d. Continuity and Change Over Time
3. Students will explore five Thematic Learning Objectives:
   a. Interactions Between Human and the Environment
   b. Development and Interaction of Cultures
   c. State Building, Expansion, and Conflict
   d. Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems
   e. Development and Transformation of Social Structures

SOCIAL STUDIES:
A.P. WORLD HISTORY

Course Overview

4. Students will increase Geospatial Awareness:
   a. Identify the five major geographical regions
   b. Identify important sub-regions within the five geographical regions
   c. This Geospatial Awareness is fundamental to understanding important concepts like cross-cultural contacts, trade routes, migrations, etc.

5. Students will study five Historical Periods:

a. Technological and Environmental Transformations	to c. 600 B.C.E.
b. Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies	c. 600 B.C.E. to c. 600 C.E.
c. Regional and Interregional Interactions	c. 600 C.E. to c. 1450
d. Global Interactions	c. 1450 to c. 1750
e. Industrialization and Global Integration	c. 1750 to c. 1900
f. Accelerating Global Change and Realignments	c. 1900 to the Present

SOCIAL STUDIES:
A.P. UNITED STATES HISTORY

BENEFITS: COLLEGE CREDIT AND PREPARATION

College Admissions

- 85% of colleges report that a student's AP experience favorable impacts admission decisions. (CollegeBoard)

Help with Cost of College

- Could increase your eligibility for scholarships. (CollegeBoard)

College Credits

- Most U.S. private universities award college credit for a passing score on the AP U.S. History Exam.
- CSUs and UCs award college credit for a passing score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP U.S. History Exam.

BENEFITS: PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL

Have an opportunity to accelerate your academics and discover prospective career paths.

Explore events of U.S. History through the use and analysis of documents, images, cartoons, quantitative data, and other primary sources.

Develop an understanding of major themes, including American identity, economic and social life, political change, continuity, and the US role in the world.

Learn to weigh evidence and interpretation as you build your factual knowledge of U.S. History. Stay informed! Stay active!

SOCIAL STUDIES:
A.P. UNITED STATES HISTORY

PREREQUISITES

1. Successful completion of World History with at least an A- both semesters OR AP European History with at least a 85% both semesters.

AND

2. Passing score on qualifying exam. The exam will consist of a writing component. Student must be able to write a 5-paragraph with a thesis and supporting evidence.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Students should be willing to dedicate an extensive amount of time for studying and completing assignments.
2. Complete Summer Assignment (to be turned in the first day of class).
3. Maintain a minimum grade of B- at the end of the Fall semester. Students who do not obtain at least a B- will be placed in college prep. U.S. History.
4. Attend scheduled practice exam dates (typically on Saturdays in April).
5. Sit for the AP exam in May. ($95 fee)

SOCIAL STUDIES:
A.P. UNITED STATES HISTORY

COURSE OVERVIEW

1. The AP U.S. History course is organized around 7 Historical Periods created by the College Board.
2. The Historical Periods serve as the framework within which students develop skills and knowledge to understand multiple perspectives of American history:
   a. American and National Identity
   b. Politics and Power
   c. Work, Exchange, and Technology
   d. Culture and Society
   e. Migration and Settlement
   f. Geography and the Environment
   g. America in the World

3. Students develop their reading, writing, thinking critically, and problem solving skills through a variety of activities. Students regularly:
   a. Analyze documents, images, and primary sources to gain a deeper understanding of historical context.
   b. Engage in student-led discussions, seminars, presentations, and debates to develop academic discourse.
   c. Write timed in-class Document-Based Essays, Long Essays, and Short Answer Essays to prepare for the AP exam.
   d. Outline textbook to prepare for weekly and unit assessments.

SOCIAL STUDIES:
AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

BENEFITS: COLLEGE CREDIT AND READINESS

1. Taking an AP course builds the skills students will need to be successful in college. Students gain a better understanding of the subject matter as well as a handle on the academic skills needed to be successful in college (CollegeBoard).

2. By earning a passing score of 3,4, or 5 on their AP exam, students have the opportunity receive college credit at some universities, and skip introductory courses in college and move directly into upper-level classes. This opens up additional time in your schedule, enabling students to take a second major or minor, or take interesting electives (CollegeBoard).

3. Having just one AP course on your transcript can help students stand out to college admissions staff. Deciding to take an AP course tells college admissions staff that the student has what it takes to succeed in the undergraduate environment (CollegeBoard).

BENEFITS: PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL

Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the workings and functions of the United States government, voter behavior and trends, and learn the foundations of civics and civil responsibility. Armed with this knowledge students learn how to become more responsible citizens.

SOCIAL STUDIES:
AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

PREREQUISITES

1. Students must earn a grade of B- or better in their English classes for both semesters, the year prior to taking the AP US Government and Politics course.
2. Successful completion of AP US History with a grade of 85% or higher OR successful completion of College Prep US History with a grade of 90% or higher.
3. Passing score on the qualifying exam. Students must be able apply the five paragraph essay structure and demonstrate the ability to create a strong thesis that addresses the prompt.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Students should be willing to dedicate an extensive amount of time for studying and completing assignments.
2. Complete Summer Assignment (to be turned in the first day of class).
3. Maintain a minimum grade of B- at the end of the Fall semester. Students who do not obtain at least a B- will be placed in College Prep U.S. Government.
4. Attend scheduled practice exam dates (typically on Saturdays in April).
4. Sit for the AP exam in May. ($95 fee)

SOCIAL STUDIES:
AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

COURSE OVERVIEW

1. This course is structured by the framework designed by College Board. The content outline is organized around 5 Big Ideas:
   a. Constitutional Democracy
   b. Civil Liberties, Civil Rights
   c. American Political Culture and Beliefs
   d. Political Participation
   e. Interaction Among Branches of Government

These 5 Big Ideas are used to help student's develop their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills by:

- Describing and explaining constitutional and political institutions, principles, processes, models, and/or beliefs.
- Explaining connections among political behaviors, institutions, beliefs, and cultural factors.
- Reading, analyzing, and interpreting quantitative data and draw conclusions about political principles, processes, behaviors, and outcomes.
- Reading, analyzing, and interpreting qualitative sources.
- Developing an argument about political principles, processes, behaviors, and outcomes.

WORLD LANGUAGES:
A.P. SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

BENEFITS: COLLEGE CREDIT AND PREPARATION

UC SCHOOLS

Students who achieve a score of 3 or higher on the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam will receive a minimum of 8 quarter units.

CSU SCHOOLS

Students who achieve a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam will receive 3, 6, or 9 credits respectively.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

- Most U.S. private universities award college credit for a passing score on the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam.
- Most U.S. private universities require the study of a second language as part of an undergraduate degree.
- This course adequately prepares students for college-level study of a second language.

BENEFITS: PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL

Competitive edge when seeking a job and more earning power over lifetime (Rumbaut, 2014)

Bilingualism improves executive functioning (Sorge, et al., 2016)

Bilingualism may prevent or delay the onset of Alzheimer's Dementia (Perani, et al., 2017)

Learning a second language expands one's global outlook and it's fun!

WORLD LANGUAGES:
A.P. SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

PREREQUISITES

1. Successful completion of Spanish III with at least an A- both semesters OR Spanish III Honors with at least a B- both semesters

AND

2. Passing score on qualifying exam (only students who fulfill Prerequisite 1 are permitted to take the qualifying exam).

REQUIREMENTS

1. This class is conducted *entirely* in Spanish. Students should be willing to communicate in Spanish at all times.
2. Complete Summer Assignment (to be turned in the first day of class).
3. Maintain a minimum grade of B- at the end of the Fall semester. Students who do not obtain at least a B- will be dropped from the class.
4. Attend scheduled practice exam dates (typically on Saturdays in March and April).
5. Sit for the AP exam in May. There is a fee of $95 for that exam.

WORLD LANGUAGES:
A.P. SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

COURSE STRUCTURE

1. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is organized around 6 thematic units created by the College Board.
2. The units serve as the contexts within which students develop skills in the three modes of communication:
   a. interpersonal (e.g. face-to-face communication, e-mail response)
   b. interpretive (e.g. textual analysis, essay writing)
   c. presentational (e.g. prepared and extemporaneous speech).
3. Students develop their listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills through a variety of activities. Students regularly:
   a. read, listen, and watch authentic materials
   b. engage in daily (real-life and digital) oral and written exchanges
   c. attain knowledge of the cultures, histories, and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world
   d. compare and contrast the practices, perspectives, and products of the Spanish-speaking world with those of their own culture

UNSOLICITED STUDENT TESTIMONY

"Thank you so much for all you did. Thanks to all we did in AP Spanish I now don't have to take three quarters worth of a language at UC Davis! It saved me so much money and time, and I feel much more comfortable with the language. Especially with having Mariana [former SMCHS student] as a roommate, it's really great that I can talk to her parents and with her in Spanish more comfortably." (Shelby Jewell, SMCHS 2016 Alumna)