

## Disappearing AP Classes

A look at Kennedy's limited AP courses

by Maya Khuzam

Editor-in-Chief

Chemistry, biology, statistics, and psychology have vanished from the offered advanced placement courses at Kennedy High School, leaving the students with only ten AP classes available. So what does that mean for the students of Kennedy High School who do not have many choices? When processing applications, colleges will not compare high schools, meaning the amount of AP classes an applicant has taken are compared with the amount of AP classes their school offers. This, however, does limit the resources and opportunities available to Kennedy students in comparison to students from schools with more than 20 AP classes.

AP Courses are challenging classes that offer students the chance to score extra points in their grade point average and earn college credit by passing the AP test with a score of three or higher. The college counselor, Lorin Abarr, encourages students hoping to get accepted into UCs and private colleges to enroll in many AP classes, while kids applying to CSUs should try

a few. These high level classes give students a chance to challenge themselves while getting a taste of what college will be like.

Part of the reason why AP classes get closed is the lack of interest from students. Before the end of each year, there is an AP fair where the teachers attempt to educate students about the available AP classes and persuade them to

people interested, but Allen Hartoonian, who taught the class for the past two years, unexpectedly left during the summer. The only other teacher who could teach the class retired that same year, leaving no hope for a statistics class. The chemistry and biology classes plan to make a comeback next year, but this is a huge disappointment for senior students who were look-



The selection of AP prep books the college center provides

sign up and fill classes. Students usually grab a couple papers to sign up for classes and then never turn them in, forcing teachers to close classes because they think students have no interest in them. This is what occurred with biology, less than 30 students signed up. Statistics, however, had many

ing forward to taking the class in high school. "I was initially planning to take five AP classes, but classes closing left me with only one AP class to take," ranted senior Andrew Bolita. Counselors want to remind students to remember that the fate of future AP classes, whether

more are created or removed, is up to the students. "We depend on the students to know what AP classes are necessary to create; we use their sign-up sheets and feedback to know what is working and what is needed," stated Assistant Principal Roberta Mailman. For students looking for more choices and an extra challenge, Pierce college is offering after school classes that include sociology, psychology, and child development. These classes count for college credits and can be an alternative to limited AP classes.

### AP Classes

#### Math:

-AP Calculus

#### Language:

- AP English Language
- AP Literature
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Spanish Literature

#### Sciences:

-AP Physics

#### History:

- AP American History
- AP Art History
- AP Gov. and Econ.
- AP World History

## Incoming Freshman

Preparing the freshmen on new school grounds

by Katherine Raizada

Photo Editor

As the new school year commences, incoming freshmen will be exposed to a new campus, peers, staff, and the opportunity to experience the freshman transition program. The freshman transition program is federally funded for the purpose of improving the school's structure and atmosphere. The freshman academy aims for a smaller and more tight-knit community to accommodate the freshmen.

Since the program is aiming for a specific community, most ninth grade home-rooms and classes take place in the K building.

"We had the freshman academy in the EP's back in 2008 and 2009," said Carlos Amaya, freshman counselor. "It was very successful except that the area was too far for the freshmen, but we wanted to introduce it again this year."

The reason why the freshman academy is within the K building is because it gives students the advantage to be closer to their other classes. This is done in order for the freshmen to adapt more quickly to the campus.

As well as Amaya, Dean Irene Petty also makes

sure she monitors the freshmen involved in the program.

"I want to guide the freshmen who are struggling to also transition into high school," discussed Petty. "We can provide contracts, interventions and whatever it takes

Freshmen also have Link Crew members that visit the students once a week during homeroom to mentor them and help the freshmen merge together by encouraging them to participate in several activities. As well as helping the new stu-



Freshman students pointing out their artwork for the academy

to help these kids." She firmly believes in helping the new students act and adjust to a new campus with the right motivation.

Petty and Amaya both want to be well acquainted with students to understand their necessities. The program is still progressing, but the staff is willing to provide the proper resources.

dents adjust to a new school, Amaya wants the freshmen to achieve high academic scores.

"We are willing to go the extra mile for these students; we want to help them transition easily," commented Amaya.

Amaya expressed his high expectations and wishes the freshmen do their best in high

school with the support of their own academy. While being the freshman counselor, he is determined to know the students well and know their goals for their future at Kennedy.

"I expected high school to be tough, but now that I'm here, it doesn't seem tough at all and I've already adapted," noted freshman Diana Garcia.

With the help of the freshman transition program, she was able to accommodate herself in new surroundings fairly quickly. Garcia also strives to attain good grades so she could be the valedictorian for her class.

"I'm interested in joining color guard and finally getting straight A's on all of my report cards."

Just like Garcia, freshman Angie Sanchez also set goals for her time spent in high school. The help that the freshmen are receiving is important for them to apply it to their everyday life and flourish from it.

The motivation these freshmen possess is the result that Amaya and Petty want from freshmen participating in the academy. They're determined to help the freshmen as much they can. High school may be hard to adapt to, but with the support and teamwork from the freshman transition program, students are able to kick start their four years at Kennedy with the right mindset.

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### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Word is a student newspaper constructed by a group of diverse students who are interested in the field of journalism. The purpose of the student publication, The Word, is to fairly and accurately report on the wide spectrum of student affairs at Kennedy High School in a timely and effective manner. The Word is meant to educate, inform, persuade, entertain, establish views and represent the voice of the student body as a whole. Publishing the newspaper is a boundless endeavor that requires teamwork, sacrifice, determination and ambition.*



