**What is Advanced Placement?**

The Advanced Placement program was developed by the College Board in an effort to offer college-level courses to motivated high school students. New Town High School offers several AP courses across disciplines so our motivated Titan students can better prepare themselves for the rigors of college coursework.

**What is the difference between Advanced Placement classes and honors courses?**

Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses developed by New Town High School teachers who have had their syllabi approved by the College Board through an audit process to ensure their academic rigor. At the end of the year, AP students will complete a standardized test for that course. If the student receives a 3, 4, or 5 on the exam, they are eligible to receive college credit at most US colleges and universities. One year spent in an AP course is the academic equivalent of one semester in an introductory college course. The workload and rigor in an AP course is significantly more advanced than that of honors courses.

**Does my student need to be tested for placement in the Advanced Placement program at New Town High School?**

The AP program at New Town High is considered “open enrollment,” which means any student who desires may take an AP course. That being said, certain students are identified as having “AP Potential” based on individual PSAT scores and invited to take certain classes. A student should choose whether or not to take an AP class based on this information and teacher recommendation.

**How do academic and grading expectations differ between AP classes and honors/standard classes?**

Advanced Placement courses require students to think and question deeply, to synthesize, analyze, and evaluate information thoroughly, and to perform with maturity in a variety of group situations. The term “multi-tasking” describes how students in AP courses must function. Students in these courses must also be able to balance the time constraints of extra-curricular activities and the AP workload, so time management is key. Honors and standard classes at New Town follow the standard BCPS grading system; however, AP courses generally weight assessment pieces higher than homework and classwork. In addition, teacher expectations for depth of thought and assignment quality are significantly higher than the expectations in standard and honors courses. This increased level of difficulty often surprises students at first; however, most students who put in the time and effort develop a comfort level with these increased expectations by 2nd quarter.

**Who can I talk to about AP courses at New Town High?**

Students interested in taking an AP course should talk to their guidance counselor or current teacher in that content area.

**What are the possibilities for college credit if my child takes an AP course?**

Colleges and universities vary in their use of passing AP scores to grant college credit. A recent survey of top schools in Maryland showed that most awarded credit for 4’s and 5’s on AP exams. For more information, look at a college or university website as the AP acceptance policy is generally listed.