



# ADVANCED PLACEMENT

## Why AP?

**Confidence** — Develop better study habits, improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem-solving abilities — this will give you the confidence to tackle the academic challenges that you can expect in college.

**Credit** — Entering college with AP credits gives you time to move into upper-level courses in your field of interest, pursue a double major, or study/travel abroad.

**College Success** — Research consistently shows that students who are successful in AP typically experience greater academic success in college than similar students who do not participate in AP.



**Mr. Shawn Garrity**  
[sgarrity@sthelenaunified.org](mailto:sgarrity@sthelenaunified.org)

*“Taking AP classes is more than a test score, it is an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in a subject where they excel and gain a college level experience.”*

## COURSES

**AP Biology /AP  
Environmental Science**  
(year on, year off)  
[Mrs. Lisa Luhn](#)

**AP Comparative  
Government & Politics**  
[Mr. Marc Luelsdorf](#)

**AP English Language &  
Composition**  
[Ms. Rana Backhaus](#)

**AP English Literature &  
Composition**  
[Ms. Elizabeth Ganshorn](#)

**AP Psychology**  
[Mrs. Paige Vanderbilt-Rios](#)

**AP Spanish Language &  
Culture**  
[Mrs. Michelle Parker](#)

**AP Statistics**  
[Mrs. Paige Vanderbilt-Rios](#)

**AP Studio Art: 2-D Design**  
[Ms. Silvia Seyve](#)

**AP United States History**  
[Mr. Evan Blasingame](#)

**AP World History**  
[Mrs. Madeline Breazeale](#)

## What is AP

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college.

Myth	Reality
AP is for students who always get good grades.	AP courses are for any student who is academically prepared and motivated to take on college-level courses.
Taking AP courses could hurt my child’s GPA.	Many schools use GPA weighting to acknowledge the additional effort required by AP. In addition, a decision to take an AP course shows admission officers a willingness to take on the academic challenge
AP courses are too stressful.	It’s no secret that AP courses are challenging, but the support students receive from their classmates and teachers can help ease their worries.
I don’t know if my child will score high enough on the AP Exam to get college credit.	You don’t need to score a 5. Many colleges grant credit — and placement as well — based on a 3 or better on an AP Exam.

## SHHS Advanced Placement Test Data

Subject	2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019	
	Enrolled	Taken/Pass	Enrolled	Taken/Pass	Enrolled	Taken/Pass
AP Calculus	13	13/5	12	12/8	18	19/2
AP Statistics	19	19/15	13	13/9	18	20/14
AP U.S. History	8	8/7	9	9/9		14/11
AP Biology	22	22/20	15	15/11	10	12/8
AP Comparative Gov.	24	23/9	22	22/19		26/12
AP English Literature	13	13/13	11	11/10	8	8/7
AP English Lang.	12	12/12	18	18/16	17	19/18
AP Spanish Lang.	31	31/30	1	1/1	24	28/28
AP Studio Art	2	1/0	21	21/21	1	1/1
AP Psychology	31	29/24	5	5/5	51	50/41
AP World History	12	12/12	24	24/17	29	29/26
<b>Totals</b>	12	<b>184/148</b>		<b>171/139</b>		<b>226/168</b>
<b>% Passed</b>		<b>80%</b>				<b>74%</b>



*“AP Comparative Government has purposefully and beneficially made our world just a little smaller in my students’ minds.” – Marc Luelsdorf*