

HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES

Requirement

Every county board is REQUIRED to offer honors and advanced placement programs. The purpose is to meet the needs of students who have the potential and desire to complete curriculum more demanding than that offered in the regular classroom for their current grade level.

Student Eligibility Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors

St. Marys High School administration shall determine a student is eligible for AP and/or Honor classes when the following conditions have been met:

- A student shall have attained at least a rating of above mastery on the applicable standardized test(s) of achievement during the preceding year.
- A student shall have attained a 3.5 GPA in the same field of study. For incoming freshmen, this shall be applied to the 8th grade.

Credit

Honors

In order to receive credit on their high school transcripts for successfully completing the honors class experience, students shall:

- Have been determined eligible and properly enrolled; and
- Have earned a passing grade on the required work.

If both requirements are met, the student's official transcript shall be clearly marked "Honors" for the given class(es).

Advanced Placement Courses

The AP Program provides willing and academically prepared high school students with the opportunity to study and learn at the college level. They are not "hard" high school courses or honors-level courses. It is important for schools, parents, and students to be clear on this distinction. Each AP course is modeled on a comparable college course, and each AP course culminates with an AP exam, which is optional. This is a college-level exam scored by college, university and high school faculty.

In accordance with West Virginia State Board of Education Policy 2510, Pleasants County Schools shall issue weighted grades for Advanced Placement Courses for which high school credit is to be awarded. County boards of education continue to have discretionary authority to issue weighted grades for other advanced high school courses.

Student Costs

Before enrolling in an AP class, students/parents shall be made aware of the exam fee required by the College Board. The school should apply for the reduced fee for financially needy students, as warranted.

Curriculum

- Curricula shall be determined as follows: College Board AP - College Board Curricula;
- College Classes - By the college subject to approval by the Board on an advanced basis if elective credit is to be given;
- Honors Classes - By the Pleasants County Board of Education (such shall have the regular curriculum as its basis, and shall extend and/or expand upon it).

Faculty Preparation/Staff Development

Teachers of AP® courses must attend an Advanced Placement® Summer Institute (APSI) once every three years after completing the initial APSI. Teachers of AP® courses may also meet the requirement for attendance at the APSI by holding the Advanced Placement® credentials outlined in W. Va. 126CSR136 WVBE Policy 5202: Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classification.

Reference: West Virginia School Law 18-2E-3a

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