

GRAYSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Advanced Placement, Dual Credit courses help students get a head start on college

Registration for 2008-09 classes at GCHS is March 5th

Registration for next year's classes at Grayson County High School (GCHS) is just around the corner. Counselors will be meeting with undergraduate students in February, and registration is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5. If your child has plans to attend college after graduation, you should encourage him or her to register for Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual-Credit courses.

The AP program is a cooperative educational endeavor between high schools and colleges and universities. AP classes, offered to students in grades 9 – 12, are more quickly paced and give students a chance to try college-level work in high school and better prepare them for the ACT exam. By simply passing an AP class, students earn high school credit. However, after completing the class, students can sign up for an AP exam (the cost is about \$45). If students achieve the requisite score on the exam, they earn college credit for the course. That can mean a savings of both time and money when a student goes to college.

Dual-Credit courses are similar. At GCHS, they are taught through the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC), allowing students to have a guided transition from high school to college. These classes are also more challenging than normal high school courses and students can earn both high school and college credit. To automatically earn college credit, a student must achieve a final grade of an A, B, or C in a dual-credit class. These classes at GCHS are accepted as general requirements at ECTC and Western Kentucky University. There is, however, a cost to the student for dual-credit courses, though it is less than normal college tuition. Students can apply for scholarships to offset the cost of dual-credit classes or AP exams.

GCHS is increasing the number of AP and Dual Credit courses offered next year in an effort to give local students a better start upon entering college. "AP and Dual-Credit courses not only allow students the chance to earn college credit, but they also look great on a high school transcript when applying for college, whether that student earns college credit or not" said Sherry St. Clair, associate principal at GCHS. She added that, "AP courses, for example, are weighted heavier on a student's grade point average (GPA) than regular high school courses. These classes can also help a student earn more Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) money, since those awards are linked to a student's GPA and ACT scores."

In addition to these courses, students can take other AP courses through Kentucky Virtual High School. For more information on AP, Dual-Credit and Kentucky Virtual High School, contact GCHS Counselor Linda Huffman.



Mrs. Langley's AP Calculus Class
Mrs. Bonnie Langley teaches mathematics at GCHS. Here, she uses food models to show three-dimensional volume problems to students in her AP Calculus class.

AP & Dual Credit Courses offered at GCHS for 2008-09

- AP Studio Art
- AP English III - Language & Composition
- AP English IV - Literature & Composition
- Dual - Credit COM 181 (Basic Public Speaking)
 - AP Calculus AB
 - AP Human Geography
 - AP European History
 - AP US History
 - AP French

How does a "weighted" course help your child?

Standard-Level Course - (student receives the following points for each grade)	AP Course - (student receives the following points for each grade)
A = 4 quality points	A = 5 quality points
B = 3 quality points	B = 4 quality points
C = 2 quality points	C = 3 quality points
D = 1 quality point	D = 2 quality points
F = 0 quality points	F = 1 quality point

How does that help a student's GPA?

GPA without an AP Class			GPA with an AP Class		
Class	Grade	Points	Class	Grade	Points
English III	A	4	AP English III	A	5
Algebra II	A	4	Algebra II	A	4
Chemistry I	A	4	Chemistry I	A	4
US History	B	3	US History	B	3
Total Quality Points/ No. of Credits		15/4 3.75 GPA	Total Quality Points/ No. of Credits		16/4 4.0 GPA