

The logo features a stylized profile of a person's head wearing a large, orange, fan-like headdress. Overlaid on the right side of the head is a large, orange, blocky letter 'P'. Above the 'P' are the letters 'MCHS' in a smaller, orange, blocky font. Below the 'P' is the text 'Advanced Placement Program' in a smaller, orange, blocky font. The entire logo is rendered in a light orange color with a slight drop shadow.

# **McHenry District #156 Advanced Placement Program**

# Has the college admission process changed?



<https://youtu.be/2AB-5dCFQrs>



<https://youtu.be/Y-OLIJUXwKU>



"If you manage people or are a parent (which is a form of managing people), drop everything and read *Mindset*."

—Guy KAWASAKI, author of *The Art of the Start*

# mindset

THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY OF SUCCESS

HOW WE CAN  
LEARN TO FULFILL  
OUR POTENTIAL

- \*parenting
- \*business
- \*school
- \*relationships

"Will prove to be one of the most influential books ever about motivation."  
—Po BRONSON, author of *NurtureShock*

CAROL S. DWECK, Ph.D.

# McHenry District 156



AP Courses in District 156 are open enrollment  
but...

Recommendations from teachers, previous  
courses, grades, test scores and schedules are  
considered

# AP Program



## Philosophy

“MCHS believes that all students deserve the opportunity to enroll in rigorous and academically challenging curriculum. Therefore, students are highly encouraged to take AP courses when appropriate. According to research, when students apply to college, the type of courses they take in high school is more important than test scores, class rank. In addition, an intense academic experience in high school is the best predictor of success in college.” (Adelman, 1999)

“AP exams are structured to measure depth of knowledge, completeness of thought, and synthesis of ideas; therefore, McHenry Community High School District 156 expects students to participate in the AP exam process. Because students enrolling in AP courses have expressed a strong desire to enroll in postsecondary education, it is our obligation and goal to prepare them to achieve success at the next level.”

# AP Courses Offered



AP Art History

AP Art Studio

AP Language and Composition

AP Literature and Composition

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Environmental Science

AP Statistics

AP Music Theory

AP Biology

AP Chemistry

AP Physics 1

AP Physics 2

AP U.S. History

AP Human Geography

AP U.S. Government & Politics/  
Comparative Gov. & Politics

AP World History

AP Psychology

AP German IV

AP French IV

AP Spanish IV

# Advantages



Research shows that AP students who earn credit and advanced placement ...

- Perform well in subsequent courses within the same discipline
- Take more, not fewer, courses in the discipline for which they have received AP credit
- Tend to earn higher GPAs than non-AP students (4.0 vs. 5.0 in MCHS)
- Are more likely to graduate from college in four or five years



# Advantages



The presence of AP courses on a student's transcript indicates that the student has challenged him or herself by taking rigorous college-level courses as AP courses are equivalent to college courses in both expectations and rigor



# Importance of AP to colleges



The National Association for College Admissions Counseling finds the different levels of importance to factors of the college admissions decision

Percentage of colleges attributing different levels of importance to factors in the admission decision: 2011

| Factor                          | Considerable Importance | Moderate Importance | Limited Importance | No Importance |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Grades in college prep courses  | 84.3%                   | 11.9%               | 2.3%               | 1.5%          |
| Strength of curriculum          | 67.7                    | 20.4                | 5.8                | 6.2           |
| Admission test scores – SAT/ACT | 59.2                    | 29.6                | 6.9                | 4.2           |
| Grades in all courses           | 51.9                    | 39.2                | 6.9                | 1.9           |
| Essay or writing sample         | 24.9                    | 37.5                | 17.2               | 20.3          |
| Student's demonstrated interest | 20.5                    | 29.7                | 24.7               | 25.1          |
| Counselor recommendation        | 19.2                    | 39.8                | 27.2               | 13.8          |
| Class Rank                      | 18.8                    | 31.0                | 31.4               | 18.8          |
| Teacher recommendation          | 16.5                    | 41.9                | 26.5               | 15.0          |
| Subject test scores (AP, IB)    | 6.9                     | 31.2                | 31.5               | 30.4          |
| Portfolio                       | 6.6                     | 12.8                | 30.2               | 50.4          |
| Interview                       | 6.2                     | 25.4                | 25.8               | 42.7          |
| SAT II scores                   | 5.4                     | 9.7                 | 22.6               | 62.3          |
| Extracurricular activities      | 5.0                     | 43.1                | 38.1               | 13.8          |
| State graduation exam           | 4.2                     | 14.9                | 23.8               | 57.1          |
| Work                            | 2.3                     | 17.0                | 43.2               | 37.5          |

# Advantages



Currently  
\$92 per AP exam  
\$53 (free/reduced lunch students)  
comparably ...

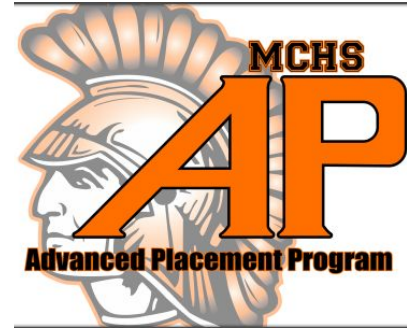
NIU currently is \$348.88 per credit  
hour, 3 credits per class = \$1,046.64

# AP Benefits



Based on 2017 McHenry AP scores, our families saved approximately \$402,910 in tuition costs because students took and passed AP tests.

# Why take an AP exam?



Both taking an AP course and taking the AP exam have advantages regardless of the test score.

(AP Scholars, placement in college classes, change of major, change of college, etc.)

# Passing AP scores



|          | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| District | 51%     | 58%     | 59%     | 57%     | 47.6%   |
|          |         |         |         |         |         |

56.7% of US high school graduates scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam.  
-College Board 2014 AP Report to the Nation

# AP Committee Progress



- Established clear enrollment and recommendation procedures
- Use data to assure appropriate placement
- Host regular meetings with AP teachers to share philosophy/procedures
- Developing shared philosophy of testing
- Created AP Boot Camp for skill readiness
- Established community funding partners for AP test fee reduction
- Increased communication and education via parent/student meetings, website, forms
- Created shared AP test prep calendar



# AP Committee Progress

- Established early registration process
- Created payment plan option
- Waived final exam for AP exam
- AP Success Yard Sign Recognition
- College Fever: Catch it Summer before junior year



# AP Boot Camp

- Team building
- Problem solving
- Time management
- Stress relief
- Critical thinking
- College planning
- Communication



# Middle School Support



- Increase awareness of college requirements
- Educate parents of current trends
- Focus on skills: writing, analysis, evidence support
- Align curriculum/articulation
- Use item analysis from PSAT

# 2017 Highlights



- 32% enrolled in an AP class in 2016-17 (+3.6%)
- 24.5% of seniors scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam (+10%)
- # of students taking an AP exam increased by 32.05%
- # of AP exams administered increased by 48.36 %
- # of 3's earned increased by 19.43% (41)