



Advanced Placement and AP Capstone at Dreher

Dreher High School
Columbia, SC

Welcome

Dreher High School is committed to every student's success.

We believe access to challenging course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in that success.

To complement the suite of AP courses at our school, Dreher is proud to be one of the first high schools in South Carolina to offer

APCapstone™

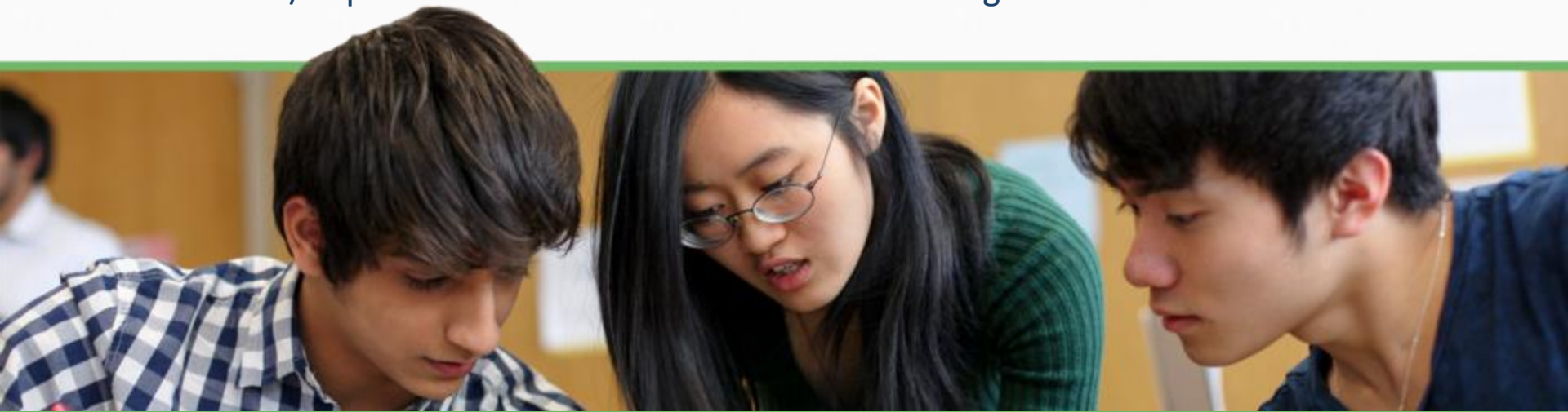




Background on Advanced Placement[®]

Advanced Placement[®]: The Basics

- AP[®] courses are college-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory college courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the courses to measure their mastery of college-level work. These exams are given in May. Possible scores on the exams range from 1 to 5. Exams contain multiple choice and free response questions.
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students college credit and/or placement into advanced courses in college



AP Facts for Dreher

- Dreher has a long history of success with AP courses and exams.
- Last school year (2020-21), we had 319 AP students across all four grade levels who took a total of 716 AP exams.
- Compare Dreher's AP program to schools statewide at the SC Dept. of Education --<http://ed.sc.gov/data/test-scores/national-assessments/ap>).
- Dreher offered 23 AP courses to students in the 2021-22 year.

Our AP[®] Courses – taking requests for 2022-23

- **AP Capstone:** AP Seminar, AP Research
- **Arts:** Music Theory, Drawing, 2-D Art and Design, 3-D Art and Design
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Human Geography, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History - Modern
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1, Physics 2

- Note: Final course offerings will be based on student interest, enrollment, and staff availability.

AP[®] and College Placement

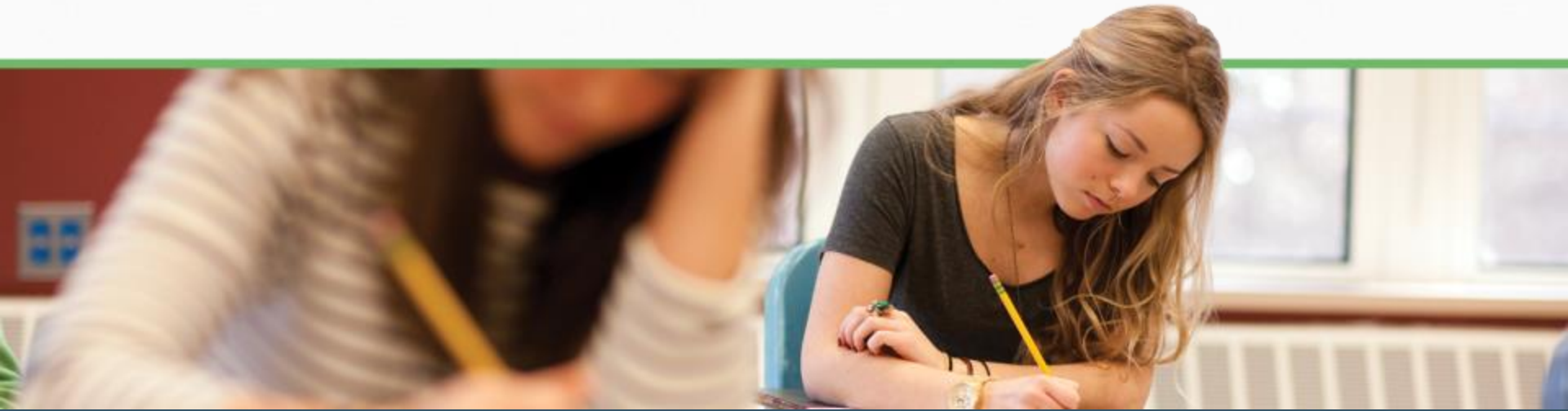
- AP is instrumental in success in college admissions and helps students earn necessary college credits while still in high school.
- Many of our students attain advanced standing once they enter college based on the AP courses they have completed successfully at Dreher.
- The College Board maintains a website at <http://www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy> that can be used to determine which credits different colleges award for passing AP scores. Colleges also post their AP credit policies on their individual websites.

Recognitions Available to AP Students

- The College Board offers a number of recognitions to students who are successful in AP courses. These can be valuable honors to include on college admissions applications.
- Our students were recognized in 2021 with national honors for their success on AP exams:
 - 67 AP Scholars (students earning scores of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams)
 - 19 AP Scholars with Honor (students earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on 4 or more exams)
 - 35 AP Scholars with Distinction (students earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on 5 or more exams)
- In the class of 2021, 23 Dreher students earned the AP Capstone Diploma.

AP[®]: The Benefits

- Students learn rigorous college-level content and skills
- Taking AP is valued in the college admission process
- AP courses are interesting and rewarding academic experiences
- Opportunity to earn valuable credit and placement in college



How to Decide if AP is Right for You

Things to Consider:

- Your grades and progress in prior Honors courses
- Your standardized test scores
- Your commitment to the coursework – AP courses involve daily extensive reading and writing both inside and outside of class. Some classes involve summer assignments and after school/Saturday sessions. Are you prepared for this commitment?
- Your interest in the subject matter.
- The overall balance of your academic and extracurricular commitments – Will you have the time to devote to the coursework?
- Your ability to work independently and monitor your own progress in demanding coursework

A Major Benefit of AP: Flexibility

- AP is a flexible program, allowing students to take as many or as few AP courses as their skills and interests will accommodate.
- Not all courses will be appropriate for all students, and AP affords students the opportunity to choose coursework that is appropriate for them. This is in contrast to other programs like IB (International Baccalaureate) that have specific requirements.
- This flexibility allows more students to participate in the program as is appropriate for their individual situations.



What is the AP Capstone Program?

Introducing - AP Capstone

APCapstone™ is an innovative program that helps students stand out in the college admissions process by developing the critical skills needed to succeed in college and careers.

Emphasizes Critical Skills Needed
for College & Beyond

Complements the in-depth
subject-matter study in AP

Two new courses—**AP Seminar** and **AP Research**—allow students to immerse themselves in topics that matter to them, while they develop the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges seek in their applicants.

AP Capstone Diploma™

AP Capstone Diploma™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma**.

AP SEMINAR (Year 1)

Team Project & Presentation

Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation

End-of-Course Exam

AP RESEARCH (Year 2)

Academic Paper

Presentation & Oral Defense

4 AP COURSES & EXAMS
(Taken at any point throughout high school)

AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research will receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate**™

AP Seminar

Typically taken in grade 10 or 11.

Students learn how to:

- Investigate real-world topics from multiple perspectives
- Carefully analyze information, write evidence-based arguments and effectively communicate them
- Work independently and with a team to research a topic, develop a written report and deliver a presentation

Example Topics

Democracy
Education
Environment
Revolution
Technology
Sustainability

Exam score based on:

1. Team Project & Presentation
 - 20%
2. Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation
 - 35%
3. End-of-Course Exam
 - 45%



AP Research

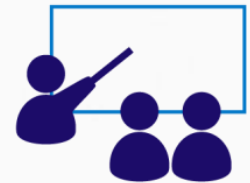
AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research. AP Research is taken in grade 11 or 12

Students learn how to:

- Design, plan, and conduct a year-long mentored, research-based investigation
- Apply research methods and practices to address a real-world topic selected by the student
- Write a college-level research paper
- Present and orally defend research findings and methodology

Exam score based on:

1. Academic Paper
(4,000 - 5,000 words)
 - 75%
2. Presentation and Oral Defense
 - 25%

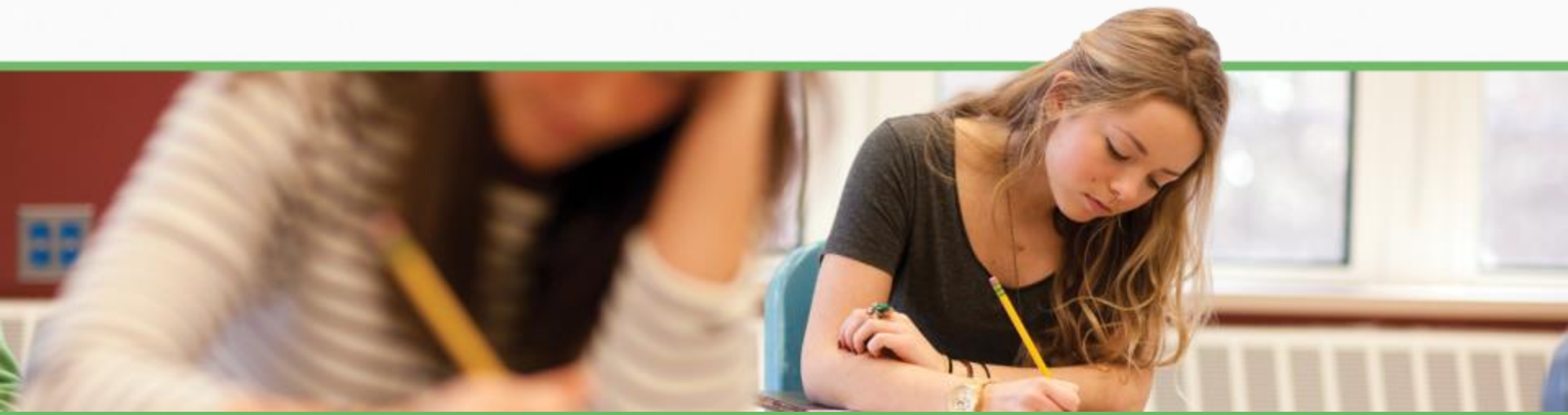


Sample AP Research Projects from Dreher

- Analyzing Incentive Structure in Civil Asset Forfeiture Law In South Carolina
- Changing Scales: The Effect of a Changing Grading Scale on South Carolina High School Students' Grades
- Does Urban Noise Cause Changed Behavior or Aggression in Birds?
- What is the Impact of Missed School Days Due to Environmental Factors on Student Performance in the SC Public School System?
- Melodic Repetition in Aphasic Patients
- The Navigation of Female Dynamics: Beauty in Portraiture and Photography

AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Earn Distinction** – Stand out in the college admission process and have the opportunity to earn valuable college credit or placement
- **Acquire Critical Skills** – Students acquire challenging college-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by colleges
- **Choose what to study** – Students choose their own research topic and study issues and topics of interest and importance to them





Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

AP Capstone: Start the Conversation

Help your child prepare to talk to a teacher or counselor about AP Capstone. Here are some questions to encourage your child to think about:

Is AP Capstone right for me?

Before you talk to a teacher or counselor, think about what interests you:

- What college majors are you considering? What careers excite you?
- Do you enjoy challenging yourself to think in new ways?
- Do you like to collaborate and learn from others?
- Be realistic about your commitment and your ability to handle demanding coursework.

What steps do I need to take?

- Go online and read the information on the AP Capstone website to find out more – <http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone>
- Meet with your school counselor to plan your course of studies both for next year and the remainder of your time in high school. Consider your overall goals for college admissions and graduation requirements.
- Talk to your teachers to obtain feedback regarding your preparation for AP coursework. For AP Capstone, especially consider your academic writing and reading skills.

AP Capstone: Start the Conversation (continued)

When should I take AP Capstone?

- Remember that AP Capstone is a two-course sequence designed to be taken over two years: AP Seminar and AP Research.
- Students can take the first course as early as 10th grade. The following are scheduling options for AP Capstone Courses as well as some advantages and disadvantages:
- Grades 10-11 – Pro: Students will complete the program before senior year and will know their diploma status before graduation or beginning college applications. Con: Students are young when they begin the program and may need more time to develop necessary academic skills.
- Grades 11-12 – Pro: Students will be older and have a broader foundation of knowledge, skills, and maturity before beginning the Capstone courses. Con: Students will not know their diploma status prior to graduation.
- Grades 10 & 12 – Pro: Flexibility in scheduling for students. Con: A year off between the two courses can result in a gap in knowledge between the two courses.
- If a student is working toward the AP Diploma, remember that he or she must take 4 AP courses in addition to the two Capstone courses (total of 6) and score three or better on all exams in order to qualify. Consider these requirements when planning class schedules.

Contact Us

Dreher High School Counselors:

- Kevin Kirkley - AP Capstone Counselor & Coordinator (803) 253-7016
- LaToya Reese – all 9th graders (803) 253-7033
- Gerald Hughes – grades 10-12, last names A-Joh (803) 253-7022
- April Finley – grades 10-12, last names Jon-Z (803) 253-7014