



An Introduction to the AP Capstone™ Program

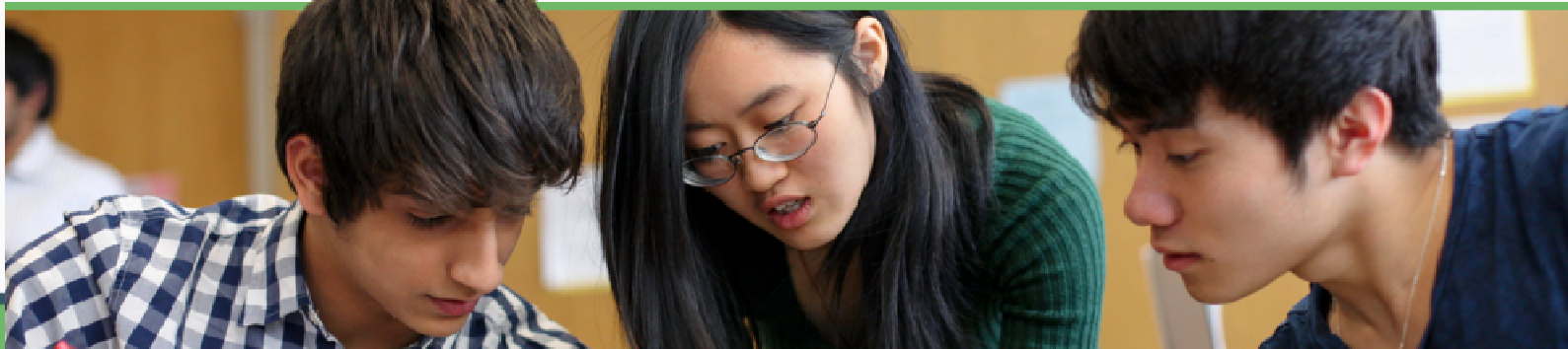
<Your School's Name>

Highlights

- Only CMS school chosen
- 3-5 schools in North Carolina
- Based on number of students taking classes and high success rates
- Starts next fall with sophomores

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 course to measure their mastery of college-level work
- 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[®]: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, and the essential time management and study skills needed for college success.
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers.*

*2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"



What is the AP Capstone Program?



Introducing - AP Capstone

AP Capstone™ is an innovative program that helps you stand out in the college admissions process by developing the critical skills needed to succeed in college and in your future career.

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.

The Pinnacle of Distinction – AP Capstone Diploma™

This challenging program helps students deepen their passion for learning, gives them greater confidence in your academic skills, and a broader perspective on their world.

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
 - 25%
2. Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation
 - 35%
3. End-of-Course Exam
 - 40%



Teachers & Students select and study 2-4 topics.

AP Research

AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.

Students learn how to:

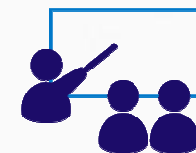
- ▶ Design, plan, and conduct a year-long mentored, research-based investigation
- ▶ Apply research methods and practices to address a real-world topic selected by the student
- ▶ Write a college-level research paper
- ▶ Present and orally defend research findings and methodology

Exam score based on:

1. Academic Paper
(4,000 - 5,000 words)
 - 75%



2. Presentation and Oral Defense
 - 25%



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



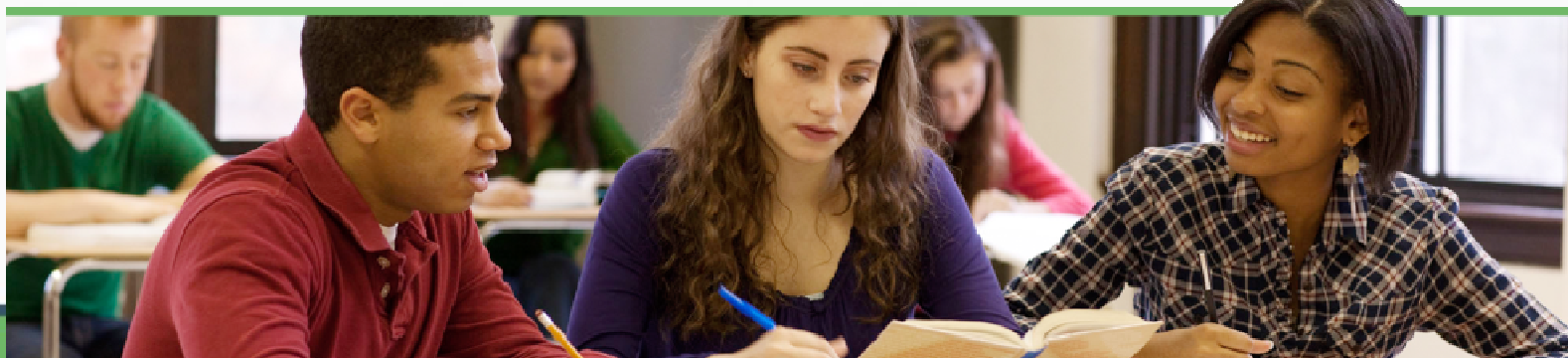
What Students are saying about AP Capstone

“We get a topic, and we dive deep into it, looking at not just the facts but different perspectives, which ones are strongest, which ones are missing something... [It]...teaches us to learn and think, and prepares us for college and life in a way that no other class does...”
—Senior, North Central High School, Spokane, WA

“The expectations in the [AP Seminar] course are a lot higher. We are expected to be more responsible and more attentive about what is going on in the world around us.”
—Sophomore, N. Miami Beach High School, Miami, FL

“[In college interviews,] it gives you something to talk about. I can be really specific and colleges see that you have an interest.”
—Senior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY

“[I’ve gained] confidence... I speak more now. In this environment your opinion is needed. You feel part of a family.”
—Junior, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY



What Colleges are saying about AP Capstone

“At the University of Washington, we would be very interested in enrolling students who have distinguished themselves through the AP Capstone program.”

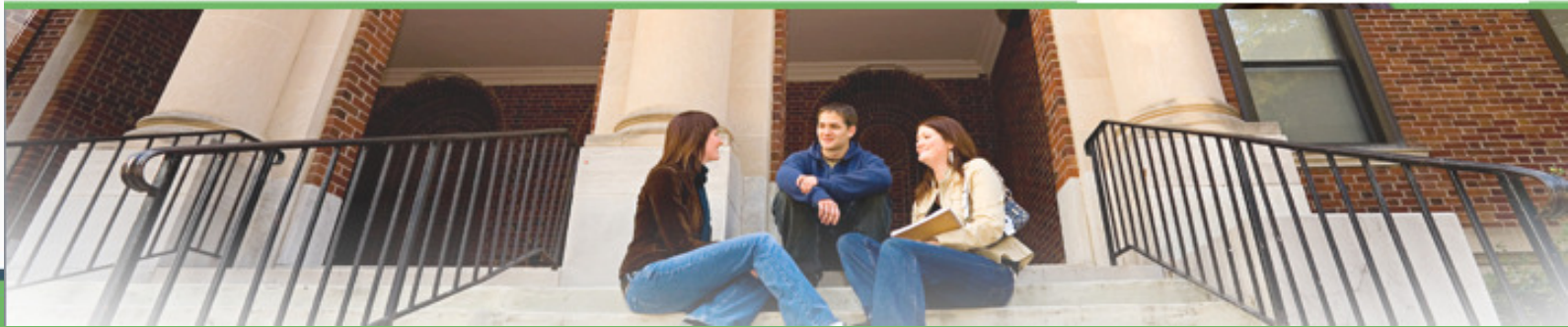
Phillip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of Washington

“AP Seminar and AP Research are terrific classes that prepare students to think in non-formulaic ways.”

Stuart Schmill, Dean of Admissions, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“AP Capstone provides more of the learning students will need for success in college and beyond: effective communication, original research, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Ken O'Donnell, Senior Director of Student Engagement, California State University



Next steps for Hough

- Application process for students during registration.
 - teacher recommendation
 - writing sample
 - group interviews
 - application questions
- Student and parent information sessions
- Due March 4th to Mrs. Estrada
- Application on Hough website