



**W.P. WAGNER**  
[school of science and technology]

**ADVANCED  
PLACEMENT  
& FIRST**

Think about the challenges you tackle every day. With each one you build greater confidence in your abilities. That's what AP is all about. AP courses may be tough - they bring the college experience to your high school after all - but they also help you develop skills and knowledge that you can use in the real world. Even better, they introduce you to new possibilities - in college majors, in career options, and in yourself.

## AP at WPW

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### What is AP?

An international program offered since 1955; AP offers a variety of university level courses and exams designed by high school and post-secondary faculty. It provides challenging and enriched learning to motivated students.

### Benefits of AP:

- Students have the opportunity to dig deeper into subjects that interest them, develop advanced research and communication skills, and learn to tap their creative, problem-solving, and analytical potential.
- Even though AP courses often cover more material at a faster pace, students' final marks will reflect what they would have achieved in a non-AP course based on the Alberta curriculum. Teachers ensure that AP students' marks are not lower because of the academic rigor of AP.
- Eighty-five percent of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions, as AP courses are the equivalent of first-year post-secondary. AP courses on a transcript indicate the desire and the maturity to tackle more difficult studies.
- Reduce post-secondary course and financial load. To see whether your potential universities offer AP credit, visit <https://apscore.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>.
- Flexible programming: students may choose to take as many or as few AP courses as they want. This enables students to individually tailor their academic timetables in accordance with their abilities, interests, and extracurricular time commitments.

### AP Courses offered at WP Wagner:

- Calculus AB
- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- European History
- French Language and Culture
- Physics 1
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science A
- Music Theory





### **Frequently Asked AP Questions:**

*Why should a student take the AP exam if he or she is not looking to earn credit or placement in a post-secondary institution?*

Students who gain acceptance into the post-secondary institution of their choice are those who take the most challenging high school courses. AP exams provide post-secondary institutions with additional information about student ability to succeed in university level study. In addition, some of the most competitive scholarship awards consider AP exam grades in awarding scholarships.

*If a student does not score a good grade on an AP exam, will it hurt chances for post-secondary admission?*

AP exam grades are not included in the course grade that is indicated on Alberta transcripts. Each student can choose to send their AP exam grades to particular post-secondary institutions. If an AP exam is taken in May of the grade twelve year, universities and colleges will not receive the exam grade before July, probably well after admittance has been granted.

*Can students who have disabilities be accommodated so they can write AP exams?*

Students who have documented disabilities may be eligible for accommodations on AP exams. WP Wagner's AP Coordinator is aware of AP students who require accommodations and appropriate arrangements are made for any AP exams.

*How many times can AP exams be repeated?*

An AP exam can be taken each time it is offered (annually in May). WP Wagner will cover the cost of the first AP exam; the cost of repeat exams in the same subject are paid by the student. A student's AP grade report will include grades for all the AP exams a student has taken, including any repeats of the same subject's exam.

### **Important Links:**

Explore AP – learn more about what it means to be an AP student.

<http://exploreap.org>

AP Course overviews – WP Wagner AP courses are designed according to the Collegeboard standards.

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse>

AP on YouTube – explore a number of videos including testimonials from AP students.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/advancedplacement>



# FIRST at WPW

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## **What is FIRST?**

FIRST stands for Focus In Research, Science, and Technology. The program's emphasis is on providing challenging and meaningful enrichment opportunities in these areas. In addition to AP content, students accepted into the FIRST Program are enrolled in classes which follow the regular Alberta Education curriculum, but enrich the material by adding a wide range of additional opportunities to extend learning in and out of the classroom. All science courses in all three years of high school are offered in FIRST.

## **Why does Wagner have FIRST as well as AP?**

Students who are in AP will not only get additional AP curriculum, but will also have their Alberta curriculum enriched as well. Teachers will go deeper into certain topics than regular classes go. Additional field trips and guest speakers are also possibilities during their FIRST/AP science classes to better prepare students for their post-secondary education.

## **Enriched Classes**

Because students in FIRST classes are grouped with other academically motivated students, teachers are able to enrich the regular curriculum in ways that engage gifted students.

FIRST classes are enriched in content. FIRST teachers go beyond the regular concepts to respond to student interests. Students are encouraged to participate in discussions that expand their understanding and draw connections between scientific concepts, technology, and society. Research projects are assigned that give students opportunities to explore deeper into scientific concepts. Lab activities may also explore advanced topics.

FIRST classes are enriched in method. Learning is more student-driven. Students are challenged to develop inquiry and critical thinking, communication, and collaborative skills. Most units of study involve creative projects that often require problem-solving. Lab investigations require students to use higher-level thinking skills rather than simply executing a procedure. The result is an enriched experience that addresses student interests and prepares a solid foundation for post-secondary studies and future careers.



## **Mentorship**

This is an optional, non-credit component of FIRST. Students specify an area of interest and are partnered with a mentor in a related field. Most mentorship pairings are the result of our award-winning partnership with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Graduate Studies Outreach Program. Mentorship provides the unique opportunity to experience a potential career first-hand and to learn from an esteemed member of the scientific and research community. Commitment is flexible and ranges from a few visits to extensive partnerships. Students may remain with the same mentor or field throughout high school, or they may explore different fields each year. Students do not select Mentorship as a course; instead they will receive information from their FIRST teacher.

## **Frequently Asked FIRST Questions**

*How do I apply to the FIRST Program?*

Students taking AP Science courses will automatically be put in the FIRST Program.

*Why do I need high marks in all courses when I just want enrichment in science and/or technology?*

The FIRST and AP Programs are designed for well-rounded students who are planning to continue their studies in a post-secondary institution with an emphasis on science and technology. Therefore, an emphasis is placed on communication skills and a high level of personal motivation, not just an aptitude or interest of science.

*During April enrolment, some of my core marks were below 80%. If I pull my marks up by June, can I get into FIRST then?*

The planning and timetable for FIRST and AP classes is completed based on the April enrolment. As a result, there is no guarantee that there will be space available for late applicants.

*Why are FIRST and AP at WP Wagner so unique?*

By combining the FIRST program with AP Sciences, a student will be experiencing the best of both worlds. Students will not only learn the mandatory Alberta curriculum, but also will get enriched lessons with extra field trips, projects, mentorship opportunities and more depth of content. This will be paired with the AP Science topics to give students a more advanced curriculum and a more rigorous program of study.

# SAMPLE AP PROGRAM

## SAMPLE AP PROGRAM

	Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
1	Science 10 AP	Math 10C AP	Chemistry 20 AP	Biology 20 AP	Math 31 AP	
					English 30-1 AP	
2	English 10-1 AP		English 20-1 AP		Social Studies 30-1 AP	
	Social Studies 10-1 AP		Social Studies 20-1 AP		Chemistry 30 AP or Biology 30 AP	
3	Option 10 level	Option 10 level	Physics 20 AP	Option 20 or Calm	Option 30 level	Biology 30 AP or Chemistry 30 AP
4	Phys Ed 10	Option 20 level	Math 20-1 AP	Math 30-1 AP	Option 30 level	Physics 30 AP

## SAMPLE AP PROGRAM with Music and French

	Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
1	Science 10 AP or Phys Ed or option	Math 10C AP or Phys Ed or option	Chemistry 20 AP	Physics 20 AP	Math 31 AP	
					English 30-1 AP	
2	English 10-1 AP		English 20-1 AP		Social Studies 30-1 AP	
	Social Studies 10-1 AP		Social Studies 20-1 AP		Chemistry 30 AP	
3	French 10	French 20	Music 20 AP		Music 30 AP	
			Biology 20 AP		Biology 30 AP	
4	Music 10 AP		Math 20-1 AP	Math 30-1 AP	French 30 AP	Physics 30 AP
	Math 10C AP or Science 10 AP					

## SAMPLE AP PROGRAM with Music

	Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
1	Science 10 AP or Phys Ed or option	Math 10C AP or Phys Ed or option	Chemistry 20 AP	Physics 20 AP	Math 31 AP	
					English 30-1 AP	
2	English 10-1 AP		English 20-1 AP		Social Studies 30-1 AP	
	Social Studies 10-1 AP		Social Studies 20-1 AP		Chemistry 30 AP	
3	Phys Ed 10 or option	Option 10 level	Music 20 AP		Music 30 AP	
			Biology 20 AP		Biology 30 AP	
4	Music 10 AP		Math 20-1 AP	Math 30-1 AP	Option 30 level or Calm	Physics 30 AP
	Math 10C AP or Science 10 AP					



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