



Wakefield High School Information Night

Thursday - December 4, 2025

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- WHS Academics
- WHS Athletics
- Spanish Immersion Program
- AP Network
- AP Human Geography
- AP World History
- AP Capstone

Administration



Mr. Peter Balas
Principal



Mrs. Jessica Salvador
Assistant Principal



Mr. Steven Geter
Assistant Principal



Ms. Jasneen Sahni
Assistant Principal



Ms. Kristie Saini
Assistant Principal



Administration



Mr. Brian Parke
Director of Student Activities



Mr. Clarence Martin
Assistant Director of Activities



Ms. Stacy Morris
Director of Counseling Services



Ms. Nekya Ball
Dean of Students





THE WHS COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

What does my School Counselor do?

Academic Support	Social/Emotional Support	College/Career Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Academic advising✗ Time management✗ Student advocacy✗ Goal-setting✗ Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Self-awareness✗ Self-management✗ Social awareness✗ Relationship skills✗ Responsible decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Career exploration✗ Resume building✗ SAT/ACT's✗ Postsecondary planning (College, CTE, Military)✗ Scholarships

- ✗ The WHS Counseling team: Director of Counseling, 12 School Counselors and 1 College & Career School Counselor
- ✗ Your School Counselors follow you from 9 -12th grade





Virginia Graduation Requirements

Advanced Diploma

26 Total Course Credits*

- ✗ 4 English
- ✗ 4 Math
- ✗ 4 Science
- ✗ 4 History & Social Sciences
- ✗ 2 Health/PE (+ First Aid/CPR/AED Training)
- ✗ 1 Economics & Personal Finance
- ✗ 3 World Languages (or 2 of 2 languages)
- ✗ 1 Fine Art or CTE
- ✗ 3 Electives (including a sequence)

Standard Diploma

22 Total Course Credits*

- ✗ 4 English
- ✗ 3 Math
- ✗ 3 Science
- ✗ 3 History & Social Sciences
- ✗ 2 Health/PE (+ First Aid/CPR/AED Training)
- ✗ 1 Economics & Personal Finance
- ✗ 2 World Languages, Fine Arts OR Career & Technical Education
- ✗ 4 Electives (including a sequence)

Verified Credits (SOLs): 5 Total

- ✗ 2 English (Reading & Writing)
- ✗ 1 Math
- ✗ 1 Science
- ✗ 1 History

Additional Requirements

- ✗ 1 Online Course
- ✗ 1 CTE HQWBL or Certification OR 1 Honors/AP/IB/DE Course
- ✗ Demonstration of the 5C's



Student Activities Office Staff

Brian Parke (brian.parke@apsva.us)
Director Student Activities

Clarence Martin (clarence.martin@apsva.us)
Assistant Director Student Activities

LaRenda Bigsby (larenda.bigsby@apsva.us)
Activities Administrative Assistant

Tony Bentley (tony.bentley@apsva.us)
Activities Academic Support Advisor

Rebecca (Becky) Kigin (rebecca.kigin@apsva.us)
Athletic Trainer





Activities and Clubs

How to get involved?

- Register online using the Wakefield athletics website
www.wakefieldhswarriors.com
- Join and review clubs on Wakefield clubs and activities page
- Canvas course:
<https://apsva.instructure.com/enroll/3LBGM6>
- Academic Activities email the Coach/Sponsor
- Activities Office - Office E119

Wakefield Athletics

FALL

Cheer
Color Guard
Cross Country
Field Hockey*
Football*
Golf (Coed)
Marching Band
Ultimate Frisbee (Coed)
Volleyball*

WINTER

Basketball
Cheer
Color Guard
Gymnastics
Indoor Track & Field
Rifle*
Swim and Dive
Wrestling (Coed)

SPRING

Baseball*
Crew*
Lacrosse*
Outdoor Track & Field
Softball*
Soccer*
Tennis

63 total teams & over 95 coaches!

***8th Grade Eligible**



School Programs



Option Schools & Programs

Who can apply?

- New or current students interested in an option school or program.

What are option schools?

- Schools or programs with unique focuses like arts, STEM, dual language immersion, student choice or Montessori.

What lottery does APS use?

- A “double-blind” lottery system to randomly select applicants, to ensure that the selection process is entirely unbiased.

APS Lottery



Lottery Application Timeline

Applications
are open!



Apply on
schoolmint
apsva.us/schoolmint/



Deadline is
January 16, 2026,
at 4 p.m.

Lottery Runs on
February 6, 2026

 **SchoolMint**

AP Network Transfer Policy

Applications for Option Schools, Programs, and Transfers for the 2026-27 school year will open on November 10, 2025, and close on January 16, 2026.

This year Wakefield will accept a limited number of students transferring into Wakefield for the AP Network. Families wishing to come to Wakefield for the AP Network must comply with APS transfer timelines and procedures. Wakefield will follow the APS lottery process in the event that more than the set number of students submit a transfer application. If Wakefield is your home school, you **do not** need to apply for AP Network.

Lottery Process Video	Wed. November 5, 2025
Applications Open	Mon. November 10, 2025
Applications Close	Fri. January 16, 2026, at 4 p.m.
Virtual Live Lotteries run and lottery results are communicated	Fri. February 6, 2026 <i>(Link will be posted by Feb. 6) Snow Date: Fri. February 13, 2026</i>
Applications Reopen for Late Applicants	Mon. March 2, 2026
Registration Deadline for New Families to APS	June 26, 2026

AP Network Transfer Policy

For Students Entering in the 9th Grade:

Students must:

- Earn a grade of C or higher in the four core classes (Math, English, Science and Social Studies) in 8th grade
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 during their years at Wakefield
- Must take at least one intensified/advanced level course by 10th grade
- Take at least one AP course by 11th grade

AP Network Transfer Policy

For Students Entering in the 10th Grade:

Students must:

- Earn a grade of C or higher in the four core classes (Math, English, Science and Social Studies) in 9th grade
- Maintain a GPA of 2.0 during their years at Wakefield
- Take at least one intensified/advanced level course in 10th grade
- Take at least one AP course by 11th grade

Wakefield High School World Languages and Immersion Programs



WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVE OPTIONS

Languages Offered:

American Sign Language (ASL)

Arabic

Chinese

French

German

Japanese

Latin

Spanish

Spanish for Fluent Speakers (SFS)

Advanced Studies Diploma

Minimum World Language requirements for students to be eligible to earn an *Advanced Studies Diploma* upon graduation:

- Three years of one language
 - Arabic 1, 2, & 3 *OR*
- Two years of two languages
 - Spanish 1 & 2 and ASL 1 & 2



* All full-year language courses are high school credit-bearing courses.

SAMPLE WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRESSION

	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Start in 7th	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5/DE/IB 1	AP/IB 2
Start in 8th	-	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5/DE
Start in 9th	-	-	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4



DISTINGUISHED

ADVAN. LOW - AP/IB/DE

INTERMED. HIGH - LEVEL 5

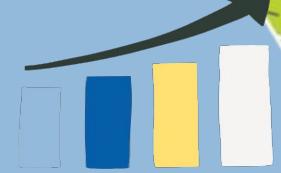
INTERMED. MID - LEVEL 4

INTERMED. LOW - LEVEL 3

NOVICE HIGH - LEVEL 2*

NOVICE MID - LEVEL 1

NOVICE LOW



BENEFITS OF LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE

- Enhanced problem-solving & self-confidence
- Improved verbal and spatial abilities
- Improved memory function
- Increased standardized test scores
- Increased flexible and creative thinking
- Expanded vocabulary in native language
- Expanded perspective of associated culture

WORLD LANGUAGE EXPECTATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

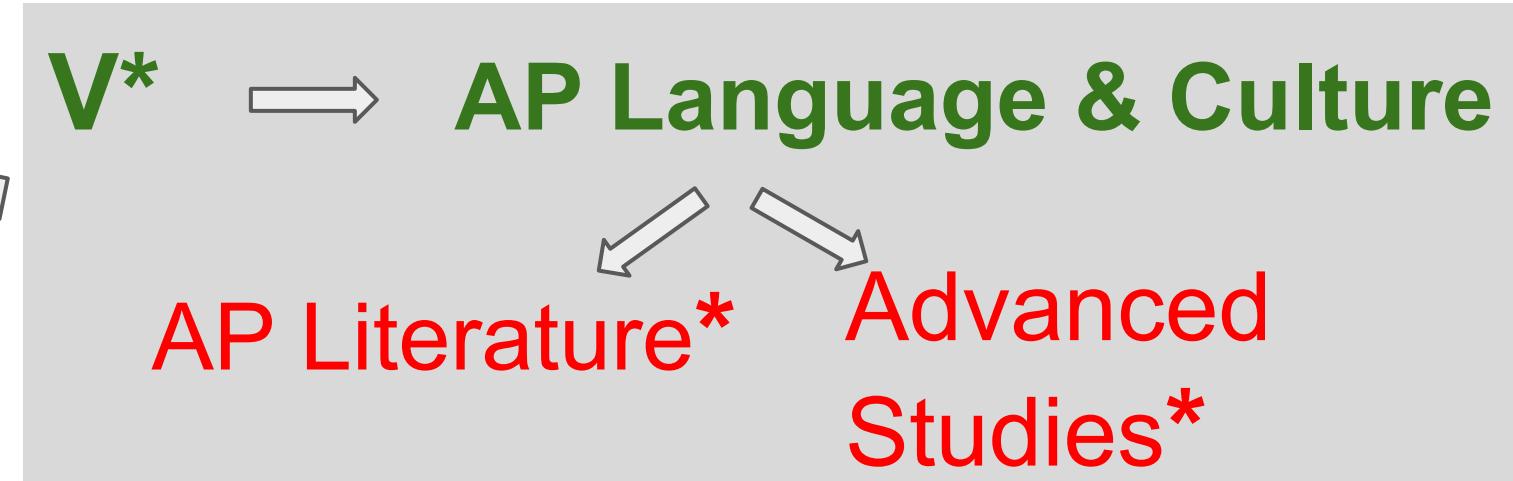
- Students should take a language in middle school with the **intent of reaching the highest level/most rigorous coursework** offered in high school
 - Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment (DE) & International Baccalaureate
 - AP & DE are **opportunities for students to earn college credit**
- Students have an opportunity to test for and earn eligibility for the **Seal of Biliteracy** embedded in their upper-level coursework
- Aside from Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma requirements, universities are looking to see **four years of language learning in high school**
 - *Building on the work done in middle school or*
 - *Committing to the 2nd language if switching after two years or*
 - *Starting in high school and continuing to senior year*



World Languages Sequence of Studies

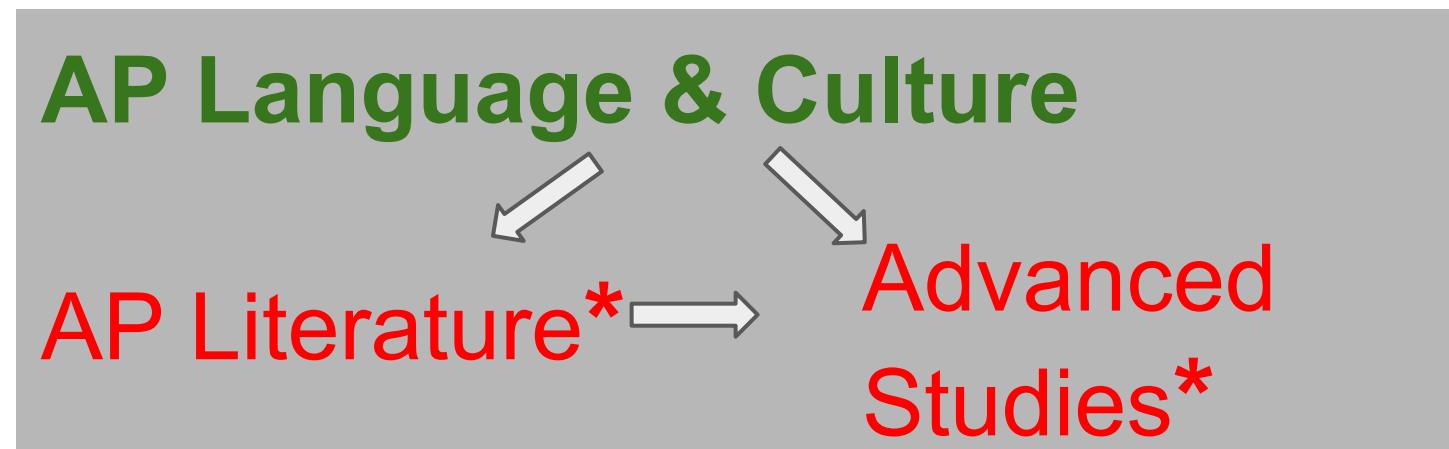


I → II → III → IV



*Students with an A and teacher recommendation in IV, may go directly to AP Language; AP requires teacher approval

*Offered only in Spanish





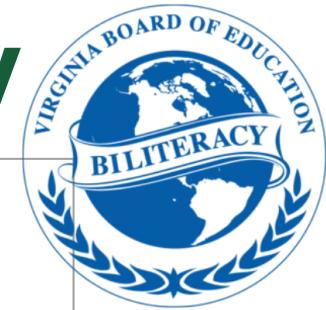
Virginia Seal of Biliteracy

Students who attain proficiency in English and one or more World Language earn the Virginia Seal of Biliteracy.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) awards the Virginia Seal of Biliteracy to students who attain proficiency in English and one or more World Language by high school graduation. Criteria to earn the *Seal of Biliteracy* are:

- Pass all required End-of Course Assessments in English reading and writing at the proficient or higher level**
- Demonstrate proficiency at the intermediate-mid level or higher in one or more languages other than English**

Pathways to the Seal of Biliteracy



AP Language Exam	Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Spanish	Minimum score of 3
<u>STAMP</u>	Levels IV and V of Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Spanish	Minimum score of Intermediate-Mid or STAMP Level 5 in Speaking and Writing
<u>STAMP for ASL</u>	American Sign Language (ASL)*	Intermediate-Mid or STAMP Level 5
<u>DELE</u> - Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera	Spanish Immersion	Minimum B1 in Speaking and Writing

7TH

8TH

9TH

10TH

11TH

12TH

SFS I

SFS II

SFS III

AP Spanish
Lang.

IB Spanish A1
(SL/HL)**

Spanish AP
Lit.

Adv. Studies
in Spanish

IB Spanish A2
(SL/HL)**

Adv. Studies
in Spanish

SFS I

SFS II

SFS III

IB Spanish A1
(SL/HL)**

IB Spanish B1
(SL/HL)**

AP Spanish
Lang.

IB Spanish A2
(SL/HL)**

IB Spanish B2
(SL/HL)**

SFS III

AP Spanish
Lang.

SFS II

SFS III

SFS II

SFS III

SFS I

SFS II

SFS I

SFS II

SPANISH FOR FLUENT SPEAKERS (SFS)

**IB OFFERED ONLY AT WLHS

Dual Language Learning at Wakefield



History of Immersion at WHS

- 2000 – Spanish Immersion 9
- 2014 – Intensified Immersion
Biology
- 2019 - Intensified Immersion
Chemistry
- 2021 – Immersion Algebra 1
- 2023 – Immersion Geometry
- 2024 - Immersion Algebra II



Dual Language Learning at Wakefield



Immersion/Dual Language Course Offerings

Language & Literature

- Spanish Immersion 9
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Spanish Literature
- Advanced Studies of Spanish

Math & Science

- Immersion Intensified Biology
- Immersion Biology
- Immersion Intensified Chemistry
- Immersion Algebra 1
- Immersion Geometry
- Immersion Algebra 2



Spanish Immersion Program Pathway

Wakefield High School



Spanish World Language Courses

(Must complete at least 3 courses; **bold** represents recommended pathway)

***Spanish Immersion 9**

Spanish Level V
(10th Grade)

AP Spanish Language & Culture
(10th Grade)

AP Spanish Language & Culture
(11th Grade)

AP Spanish Literature
(11th Grade)

AP Spanish Literature
(12th Grade)

Content Courses Taught in Spanish

(Must complete at least 2 courses)

Immersion Biology OR
Intensified Immersion Biology
(9th Grade)

Intensified Immersion Chemistry
(10th/11th Grade)

Immersion Algebra I
(9th Grade)

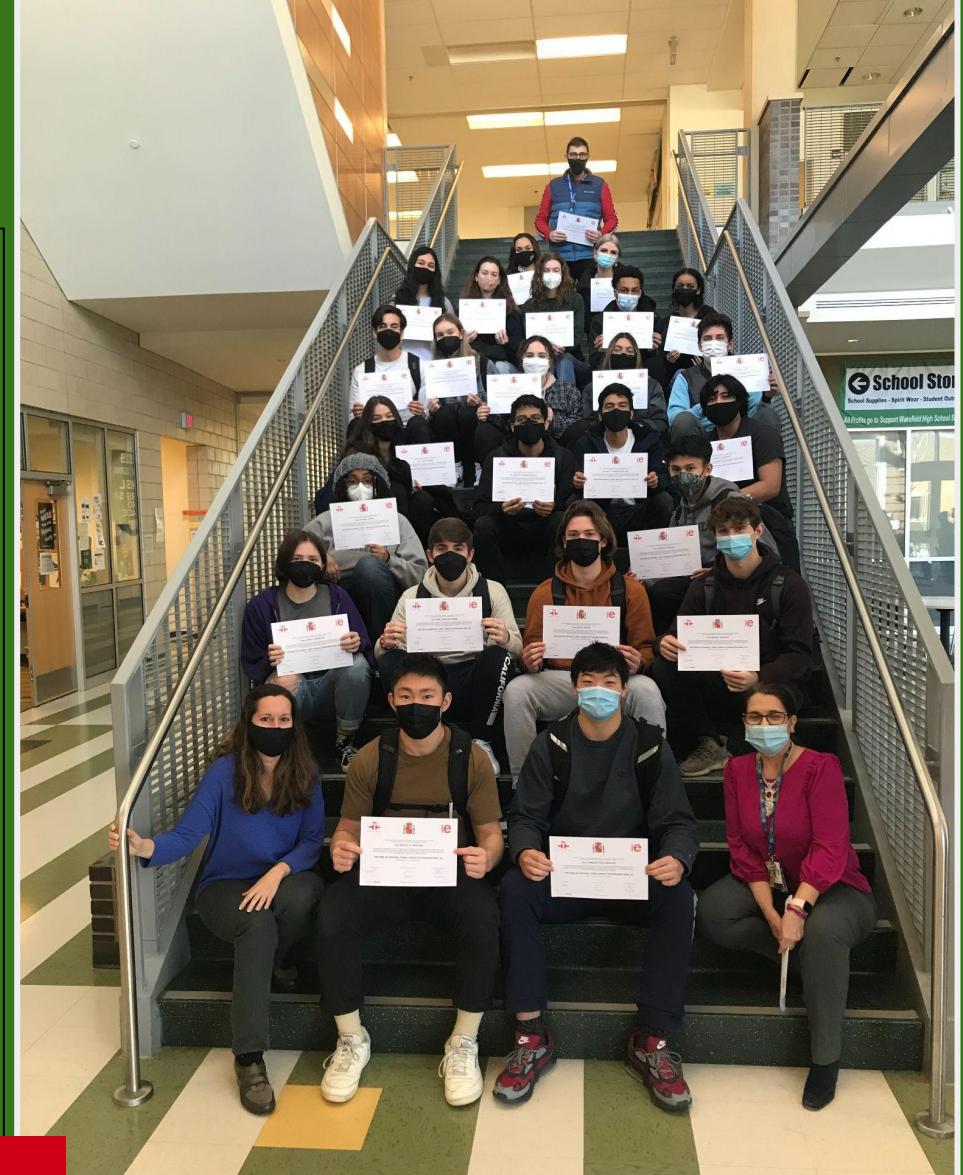
Immersion Geometry
(10th Grade)

***Spanish Immersion 9 and at least 1 AP Spanish language class are requirements**

***Additional senior classes may include Advanced Studies in Spanish and Spanish Focused Senior Project**

DELE Exam

- The DELE (*Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera*) is the official accreditation indicating a student's degree of Spanish Language, issued and recognized by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain.
- A prerequisite for many undergraduate and postgraduate university courses in the Spanish-speaking world
- The DELE exam is offered to Immersion juniors
- Lifelong benefit!



Spanish Immersion seniors and teachers celebrate a 100% pass rate in the DELE!



AP Courses Open to Grades 9-12

AP Human Geography

College-level introductory Human Geography Elective Course

Open to 9th-12th grade students

Thematic outline by subfield:

- *economic geo*
- *cultural geo*
- *political geo*
- *urban geo*



Course goal is to become

- **more geoliterate,**
- **more engaged in contemporary global issues,**
- **more informed about multicultural viewpoints**

4.3 Political Power and Territoriality

4.8 Defining Devolutionary Factors

2.11 Forced and Voluntary Migration

2.12 Effects of Migration

The Washington Post Democracy Dies in Darkness

• LIVE Trump presidential transition Middle East conflict ▾ TRENDING

Middle East Conflict >

U.S. scrambles to contain Syrian chaos

The sudden rebel offensive leading to the collapse of Assad's government and military forces has left governments around the world reeling.

By Karen DeYoung, Michael Birnbaum and Missy Ryan

LIVE BRIEFING >

Israel deploys troops across Syrian border for first time in 50 years

Some European countries say it's time for refugees to return to Syria



Rebel fighters pose with a Syrian opposition flag at the Umayyad Mosque. (Reuters)

Units of Study



1. Thinking Geographically
2. Population and Migration Patterns and Processes
3. Cultural Patterns and Processes
4. Political Patterns and Processes
5. Agricultural and Rural Land Use
6. Cities Urban Land Use Patterns and Processes
7. Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes

Why take AP Human Geography?

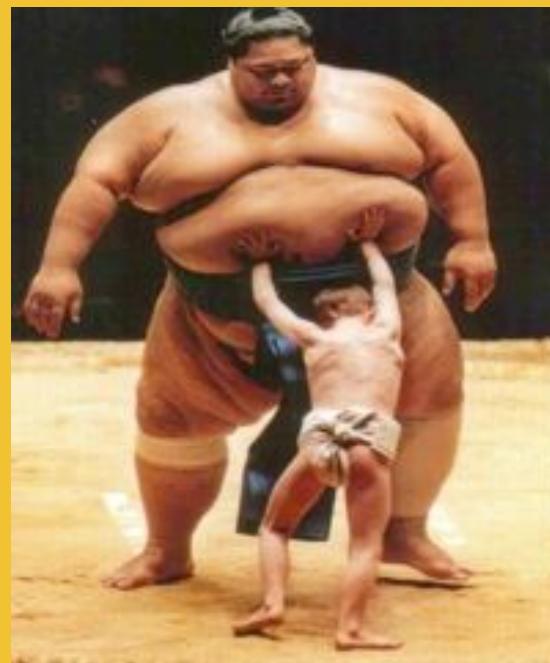
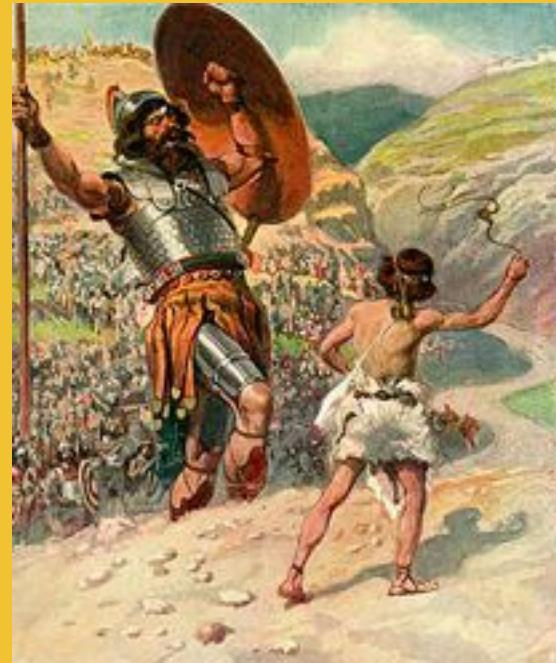
- “AP Current Events”
- **Excellent springboard into Advanced Placement classes**
 - Skills-based, taught thematically
 - Only 7 units of study, so we get to spend more time on a given topic
 - Relatively short AP exam (60 MCQ, 3 FRQ)
- **Teaches the skills to understand why things happen in the world based on patterns of interaction**
- **Builds both global citizenship and environmental stewardship**

AP World History

- Elective class (but used as a sub. for World History II)
- First AP class that was open to freshmen in APS
- APWH students take AP Exam as well as History SOL*
(*if no credit for World Geo.)

Survey-approach to history ← curriculum (30% Euro.)

- Skill-development approach to class ← teaching philosophy



**CHALLENGE
• ACCEPTED •**

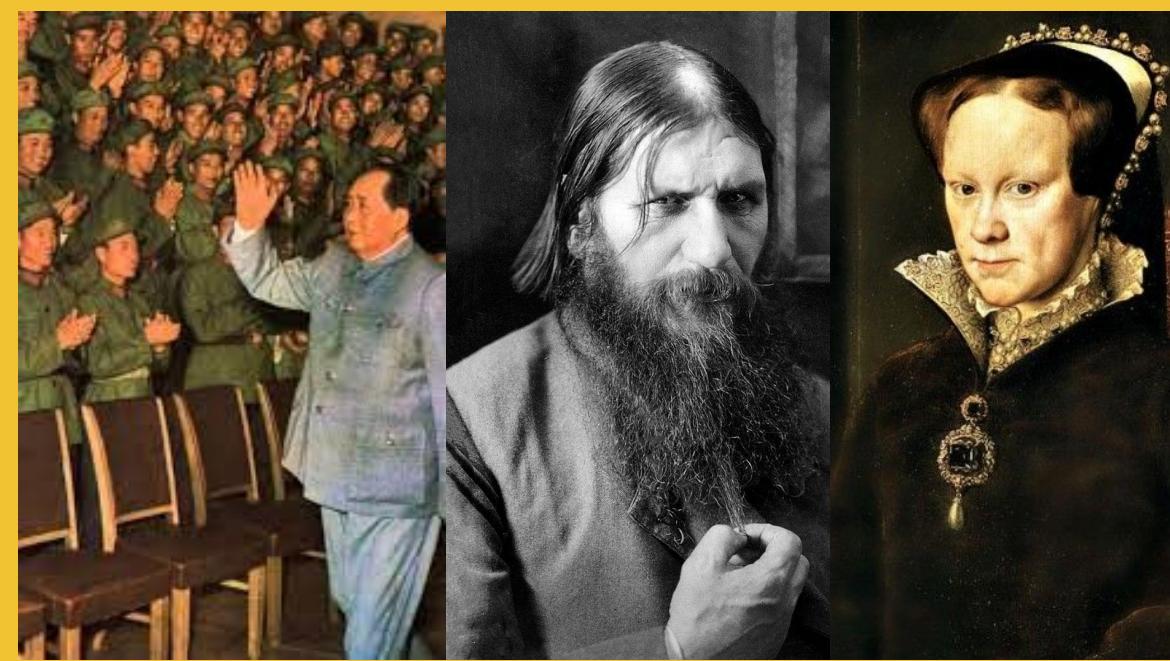
Reasons to Take and Not to Take AP World History

You SHOULD take AP World History if:

- History is your favorite subject in school
- You want to be challenged (it is not going to be easy, but it will be worth it)
- Opportunity to learn or further develop critical thinking, writing, and argumentation skills
- Opportunity to earn college credit

You SHOULD NOT take AP World History if:

- You ONLY care about /obsessed about your grade
- You expect to rely only on your natural intelligence (instead of hard work)
- You did not do well at all in your social studies / English classes in middle school
- Your friends really want you to



AP World History: “Conversation Starters”

- Main approach: Teach skills (academic and “soft”) through content
- Thinking ahead: APWH - “Gateway” AP
- Expectations: (aka: What makes a successful AP World student?)
 - (1) Focus and responsibility (in class and at home)
 - (2) Organization / planning ahead
 - (3) Resilience / handle constructive criticism
- Need more info?
 - (1) Talk to my current and former students
 - (2) See me after this presentation
 - (3) E-mail me: denis.babichenko@apsva.us
 - (4) If you register to take APWH, there will be another “exclusive” APWH meeting in May/June 2026



AP Computer Science - Two Classes

AP CS Principles



Focus on **creative** development, how computers work, and the role they play in society

AP Exam includes “Create Task” - an in-class, open-ended programming project



AP CS A

Equivalent to a first-semester, college level course in computer science.

Focuses on program and data organization and structure.



AP Capstone !



AP Capstone
Diploma™

AP Seminar

Year 1

Earn score of 3 or higher

AP Research

Year 2

Earn score of 3 or higher

4 AP Exams

Throughout High School

Earn score of 3 or higher



AP Seminar
and Research
Certificate™

AP Seminar to AP Research: Proficiencies and Skills in the AP Assessments

AP SEMINAR Assessment Task	Weight	AP RESEARCH Assessment Task	Weight
Team Project and Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Research Report (1200 words)• Team Multimedia Presentation and Defense (8-10 minutes)	20%	Academic Paper (4,000-5,000 Words)	75%
Individual Research-Based Essay and Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Written Argument (2000 words)• Individual Multimedia Presentation (6-8 mins)• Oral Defense (2 questions)	35%	Presentation and Oral Defense 15-20 mins., with 3-4 questions from a panel.	25%
End-of-Course Exam (College Board scored) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze an argument using evidence• Construct an evidence-based argument	45%		

Capstone Diploma Candidates

- Read college-level academic research
 - Write thorough analyses and arguments
 - Present professionally and academically

Wakefield was the first school in APS certified by College Board to offer this distinction.

Some of the 300+ colleges and universities that have endorsed AP Capstone as a valuable admission credential



Yale University



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY



BROWN



COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

AMHERST COLLEGE



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

W&M

U
MIAMI

OHIO STATE

Northeastern University

UCLA

NYU

Colorado State
University



Baylor
UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

SOAS
University of London

UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

TEXAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

M

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

FIU FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Georgia Institute
of Technology

WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

PITZER
COLLEGE
A MEMBER OF THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

A Special Capstone Option: AP Seminar / English Ten Intensified

Students with excellent achievement in English Nine

- May attempt AP Seminar in Tenth Grade
- AP Seminar
will take the place of English Ten Intensified



Questions

