



# An Introduction to the AP Capstone™ Program

Burnaby School District  
Schou Education Centre  
Wednesday, January 29, 2014

# Burnaby's AP Capstone Team

## Team Members:

### **Ms. Wanda Mitchell**

- Director of Instruction,  
School District #41 Burnaby

### **Mr. Gordon Li**

- Principal, Burnaby North Secondary

### **Ms. Lee Anne Kristmanson**

- Principal, Burnaby South Secondary

### **Mr. Laurent Scaligine and Mr. Vincent Chan**

- AP Program Advisors, Burnaby North Secondary

### **Mr. Amos Lee**

- AP Program Advisor, Burnaby South Secondary

# What We'll Cover

## Topic

### Background on Advanced Placement®

- Advanced Placement: The Basics
- Our AP Courses
- AP®: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

### What is the AP Capstone Program?

- AP Capstone Program
- The Courses: AP Seminar & AP Research
- Exam Fees

### AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

- Benefits and Student Testimonials
- Support from Universities

### Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

- AP®: Start the Conversation
- Program Contact Information

### Questions and Answers

# Welcome

Burnaby School District is committed to every student's success.

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

To complement the suite of AP courses in our school district, we are proud to introduce a new AP-developed program in Fall 2014 – **AP Capstone™**.

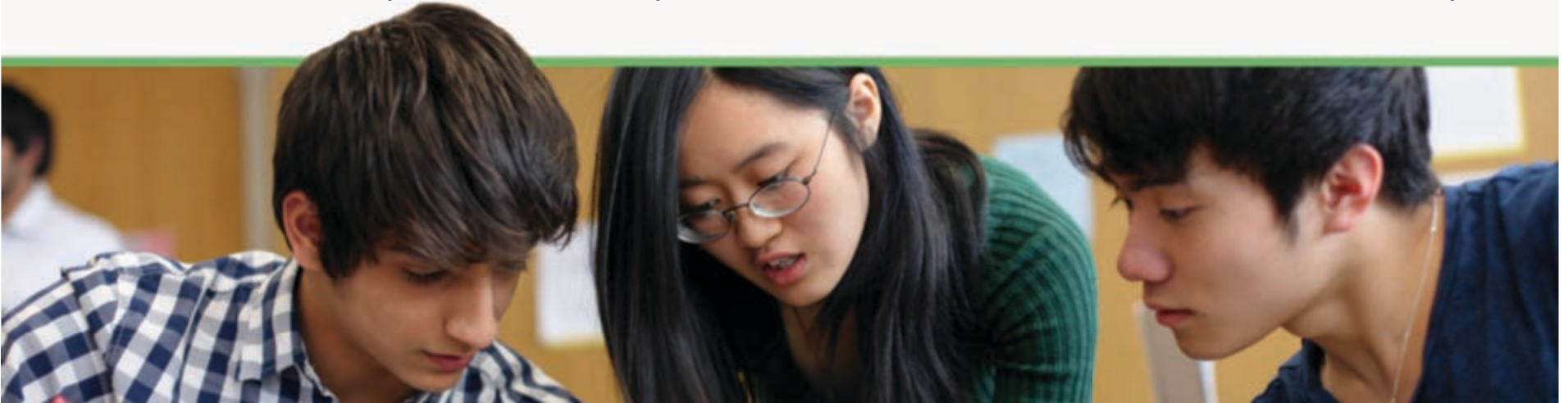


A green-tinted background image showing a group of students in a classroom setting, looking at a document or screen.

# Background on Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>

# Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>: The Basics

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are university-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory university courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure their mastery of university-level work
- A score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam can typically earn students university credit and/or placement into advanced courses at university



# Our AP<sup>®</sup> Courses

AP courses offered by the Burnaby School District include:

- **Arts:** Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio
- **English:** English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition
- **History and Social Sciences:** European History, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Statistics
- **Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, Physics 2
- **World languages:** Chinese Language and Culture, French Language and Culture

# AP<sup>®</sup> in Burnaby

## *Some interesting facts about AP in Burnaby*

- Number of exams taken last year: 1815
- % of exams with a score of 3 or more: **85.3%** in Burnaby; For comparison: 82.1% BC, 76.8% Canada, Worldwide 59%
- 67 National Scholars; 92 Scholars with Distinction, 57 Scholars with Honours and 111 Scholars
- AP Scholars demonstrate superior university-level achievement through AP courses and exams. They receive an award certificate, and this achievement is acknowledged on any AP score report that is sent to universities the following fall.



# Thoughts from Burnaby AP<sup>®</sup> Students

*Some quotes from Burnaby AP students*

“Due to my participation in Burnaby’s rigorous AP program, I feel confident and well-prepared for university; I was enriched intellectually by the challenges AP courses offered, and the maturity and discipline they demanded have undoubtedly made me a better student.”

**Catherina Pan, recently accepted to Princeton**

“The Honours and AP program are the perfect solution for students who feel underwhelmed in a typical classroom. Honours and AP taught me more course material, but more importantly challenged me, and taught me to challenge myself.”

**Bronte Lim, recently accepted to Harvard**

# AP<sup>®</sup>: 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 university success.
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in university and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers.\*

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

# AP<sup>®</sup> Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a university degree on time.\*

Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of university.

- Only 1 in 4 university students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of university in the US for a single year is \$21,500\*\* for public universities (in-state tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

\*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board*, 2008

\*\**The College Board*, Trends in College Pricing 2011, Figure 1

AP

# What is the AP Capstone Program?

# Introducing - AP Capstone

**AP Capstone™** is an innovative program that allows students to engage in rigorous university-level study of **the critical skills** necessary for success in university. The Program of study includes a 2-course sequence:

## AP Seminar and AP Research

### Emphasizes Critical Skills

- Considering multiple perspectives
- Careful evaluation of information
- Writing evidence-based arguments

### Complements the in-depth subject-matter study in AP

- Identifying and solving problems
- Oral communication and defending an argument
- Collaboration and teamwork

# AP Seminar – Starting Fall 2014

## 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  
Revolution  
Freedom  
Protest  
Technology  
Sustainability

## Exam score based on:

### 1. Team Project & Presentation

- 25%



### 2. Individual Essay & Presentation

- 35%



### 3. Written Exam

- 40%

*Teachers & Students select and study 2-4 topics.*

# AP Research – Starting Fall 2015

## 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 university-level research paper, present and orally defend the findings and research methodology

## Exam score based on:

1. Research Process
  - 15%
2. Academic Thesis Paper (~5,000 words)
  - 70%
3. Public Presentation and Oral Defense
  - 15%



*AP Seminar is a prerequisite to AP Research.*

# AP Capstone Program Model

A two-course sequence that provides students with the critical thinking and research skills needed to succeed in university and stand-out in the admission process

## AP Capstone Diploma™

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

### AP SEMINAR

Team Project & Presentation

Research-Based Essay & Presentation

Written Exam

### AP RESEARCH

Academic Thesis

Public Presentation & Defense

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

## AP Research & Seminar Certificate™



# AP<sup>®</sup> Capstone Exam Fees

- There are exam fees for AP Seminar and AP Research. Fees for these two courses have yet to be determined.
- There is also an AP Exam fee for each AP course. Currently, the fee is \$120 for each exam.
- *There are no fees for taking the AP Seminar or AP Research course.*



# AP Capstone Program: The Benefits

# AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Distinction** – Stand out in the university admission process and have the opportunity to earn valuable university credit or placement
- **Critical Skills** – Students acquire rigorous university-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by universities
- **Choice** – 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 university 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 university interviews,] it gives you something to talk about. I can be really specific and universities 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 Universities 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.”

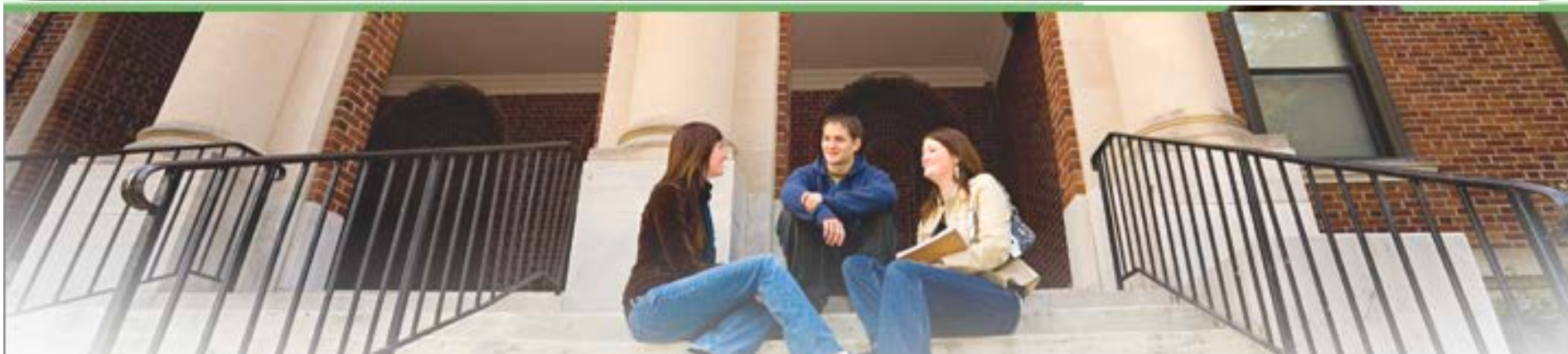
*Phillip Ballinger, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment and Undergraduate Admissions, University of Washington*

“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*

“In AP Capstone, you get students turned on to higher education in a way they are not currently and they enter university with a different kind of attitude.”

*Susan Roth, Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University, AP Capstone Curriculum Advisory Committee*



# Support from Universities

- Universities rank grades in university-preparatory courses and strength of curriculum as the two top factors in the admission decision.
- Completing the AP Capstone courses tells university admission officials that students are challenging themselves and preparing for the rigors they'll encounter at their institution and beyond.
- AP Capstone is launching in fall 2014 after a successful pilot program conducted in high schools across the globe and supported by over 100 universities in the U.S. and Canada.

**Below is a list of some of the universities that have conveyed support for the pilot:**

University of British Columbia  
University of Alberta  
Columbia University  
Duke University  
Florida State University  
Harvard University

Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
New York University  
Pennsylvania State U  
University of Maryland

University of Michigan  
University of Southern California  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
Yale University

Visit [www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone) for the latest list of universities supporting the AP Capstone program.



# Next Steps: Help Your Child Make the Best Choices

# AP Capstone: Class Structure

- **AP Seminar (Grade 11):**
  - offered outside the traditional school timetable, as a morning block (will be on opposite days of band)
- **AP Research (Grade 12):**
  - also planned to be offered outside the traditional school timetable, as a morning block



## AP Capstone: Application Information

- AP Capstone District Application is available on the district's website and at tonight's information meeting
- The application requires
  - a completed application form
  - student written responses
  - a parent questionnaire, and
  - a teacher recommendation
- Send applications to the Burnaby District Office, attention June Evans
- Please note that if accepted to the Program, students may need to transfer to Burnaby North or Burnaby South.

## AP Capstone: Application Timeline

- **Monday, February 24, 2014**  
Completed application package due at  
Burnaby District Board Office  
5325 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, BC  
Attention: June Evans
- **End of April, 2014:**  
Acceptance notifications sent by e-mail
- **May or June, 2014:**  
Parent & student information meeting for all  
successful AP Capstone applicants.

# 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 university majors are you considering? What careers excite you?
- Do I enjoy challenging myself to think in new ways?
- Do I like to collaborate and learn from others?

Ask your counselor or teacher the following questions:

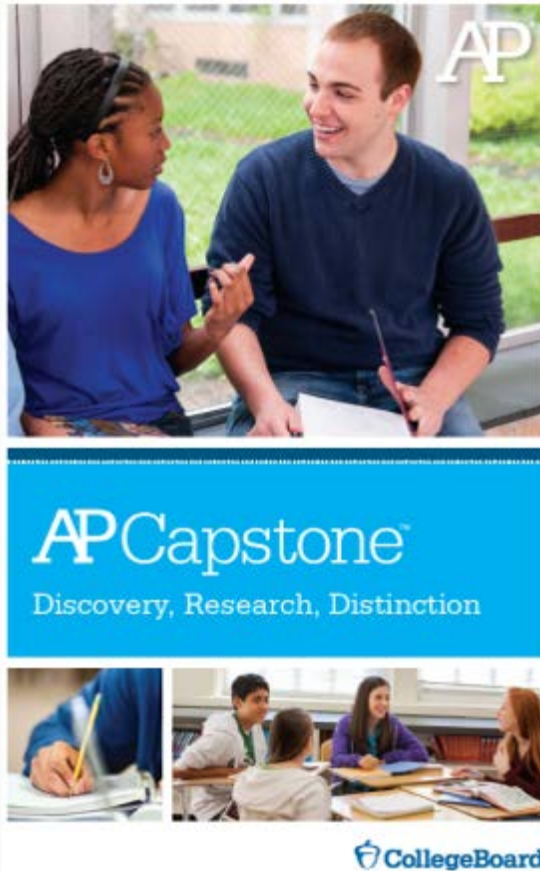
- May I speak with a teacher familiar with AP Capstone?
- How will the courses be structured in the school schedule?
- Are there other courses that can help me succeed in AP Capstone?

## What steps do I need to take?

- Go online and read the AP Capstone brochure to find out more
- Sign up before the application deadline on February 24, 2014.

# Additional Information about AP Capstone

## The AP Capstone Brochure



AP Capstone online: [www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcapstone)

Direct questions to:

**Laurent Scaligine @ Burnaby North; e-mail: [Laurent.Scaligine@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:Laurent.Scaligine@sd41.bc.ca)**

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**Amos Lee @ Burnaby South; e-mail: [southap@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:southap@sd41.bc.ca)**