September 5, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) aims to provide all students with an opportunity to engage in rigorous instruction through Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Taking AP courses allow students to engage in classes that are taught on a college level and designed to prepare them for the rigors of college work.

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, College Board will implement some key changes to the Advanced Placement Program. The changes being implemented include new resources for teachers and students to support student success in the AP courses. The most significant change relates to when students will have to commit to taking the AP Exam. This year students will have to commit to taking their AP Exams no later than October 31, 2019. This deadline has been set to provide AP Coordinators time to finalize exam orders and meet the order deadline. These changes will impact our AP Exam Fee Policy.

As part of the new process, this year, all students must register at the following website: https://myap.collegeboard.org and join each AP Class they are taking using a join code to be provided by their teacher. This process will be conducted once the school year begins with the assistance of the AP Teachers. All students must join the class via this website to have access to the new resources and to register for the AP Exams.

PGCPS will continue to support and encourage students to take AP classes; however, taking the AP exam is not mandatory. To support students in taking the AP Exams, we will pay for the exams taken by students who meet the following criteria:

1. Free and Reduced-Price Meals Program Students: PGCPS will pay for those exams a student elects to take and registers for by October 31, 2019.

2. Non-Free and Reduced-Price Meals Program Students with Four or More AP Classes: PGCPS will pay for any exams in excess of three based on the exams a student elects to take and registers for by October 31, 2019. This will be assessed per family.

3. Parents of Non-Free and Reduced-Price Meals Program students taking three or fewer AP courses will be responsible for paying their own exam fees for exams students elect to take. All exam payments must be made by October 31, 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Category</th>
<th>Number of Exams</th>
<th>Family Pays for Exams</th>
<th>PGCPS Pays for Exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARMS</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-FARMS</td>
<td>4 or more</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The first three exams.</td>
<td>Any exam in excess of the first three exams per family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-FARMS</td>
<td>3 or fewer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advanced Placement Exam Fees
September 5, 2019
Page 2

Students who are not enrolled in an AP Course, but wish to take the exam, must register by October 31, 2019. These students must register at the following website: https://nypeap.collegeboard.org and join an Exam Only section for the exam they wish to take. These students will have to submit payment before an exam is ordered.

Any student, FARMS and Non-FARMS, who registers to take an exam after November 15, 2019, will be responsible for the full exam fee along with the $40.00 late fee. The cost of each exam is $94.00, except for the Capstone Seminar and Research courses, which are $142.00. Eligible FARMS students will pay $53.00 per exam. Students must be on the approved FARMS lists to be considered for the reduced exam fee. Payment must be received prior to the exam being ordered for the student. The only exception is if the course is a Second Semester course only. Second semester courses are those that begin after November 15, 2019. For second semester courses, the process for joining the AP Class and registering for the exam will be the same as previously mentioned. The deadline to register for an AP exam for a second semester course is March 13, 2020. All payments must be made using an active MySchoolBucks account.

Please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions for additional information.

If you have any additional questions regarding AP exams, please contact Ms. Edrika Hall, Instructional Supervisor for Advanced Programs, at academic.advancedp@pgcps.org.

Thank you for partnering with us in your child’s education!

Sincerely,

Kara Libby, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer
Q: How do we define family?

A: Family is defined as those living in a common dwelling space. If there are multiple students taking AP courses in one family, PGCPS will only pay for exams in excess of three exams inclusive of all classes taken by all students in that family.

Q: Do I have to be currently enrolled in an AP Course for my exams to be paid for?

A: Yes, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will only pay for those exams taken by students who are enrolled in an AP course during the present school year.

Q: How many times can a student take an AP exam?

A: A student may take an AP exam more than once, but the student must pay for any exams they retake.

Q: What is the pass rate for the course my child is currently taking?

A: Please contact the school’s AP Coordinator or your child’s teacher for this information.

Q: What are the benefits of taking an AP course?

A: Students taking AP courses are engaged in instruction that is based on college level courses. They tend to be better prepared for the rigors of a college level course. Students may be eligible for special placement in college courses based on their performance in the class.

Q: How can students prepare for and get practice to be ready for the AP Exam?

A: Students can connect to online preparation for the AP exams by going to the following link: https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/takingtheexam/preparing-for-exams

Students can also gain valuable insight on the AP courses and exams at the following link: https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home

Q: What is the passing score for an AP exam? What do colleges accept for me to earn college credit?

A: The passing score for an AP exam is a "3" or higher. Students should contact the schools they are interested in applying to in order to obtain information on their AP Exam Score Credit policy. These policies vary from institution to institution.
Q: I am a FARMS student taking an AP class, but I do not want to take the exam. Am I required to take the exam?

A: No, you do not have to take the exam. You will be able to select the exams you want to take on the AP Acknowledgment Form. If you decided to take an exam and then change your mind, you will be charged a $40 cancelled exam fee.

Q: Does the number of exams PGCPS will cover span over a students’ High School career or just one school year?

A: Each school year, PGCPS will review the budget to determine how many AP Exams will be paid for students based on FARMS status and/or number of exams taken.
Congratulations on rising to the challenge of taking an Advanced Placement (AP) course. By taking an AP course you are setting your path to college and being better prepared for the rigorous coursework. In addition, you have an opportunity to earn college credit should you take and pass the AP Exam. We know you will work hard and, as a result, you have the potential to be very successful in this course!

Students who take an AP course should be aware of several important pieces of information as outlined below:

1. Students are not required, but strongly encouraged to take the AP Exam.
2. Students who are not enrolled in an AP Course can take the AP Exam, but must register and pay for the exam.
3. Advanced Placement exam fees are as follows:
   a. The cost of each AP Exam is $94.00, except for Capstone courses which are $142.00.
   b. The deadline to order AP Exams for yearlong and fall semester courses is October 31, 2019. Orders cancelled after November 15 will incur a $40.00 cancellation fee that must be paid by the student.
   c. Any student who does not sit for his/her AP exam will incur a $40.00 unused test fee that must be paid by the student.
   d. Any exam ordered after November 15, except Second Semester Courses, will incur the full cost of the exam along with the $40.00 late fee, if applicable. This fee must be paid before an exam is ordered. The payment deadline for Second Semester Courses in March 13, 2020.

It is important to us to know that you have received this information early in the school year. We want you to be committed to being successful in this course and to understand that your commitment includes taking the AP exam. Students who are invested from the beginning of the year have much higher success rates in these courses.

Please complete the table and signature lines below and mark your calendar now for your exams in May to avoid any scheduling conflicts. Your completed form should be returned to any of your AP teachers who will submit it to your AP Exam Coordinator by **October 31, 2019** with proof of payment for the exams, if applicable. This should be completed only for the exams you plan to take.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AP Course</th>
<th>AP Exam Date</th>
<th>AP Exam Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Name: ___________________________ Student Name: ___________________________ Grade: ________

Student ID: ___________________________ Student's Signature: ___________________________

Parent's Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________