

Advanced Physics

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The staff at Tuscola High is pleased that your child is considering taking one or more advanced classes next year.

For the AP (Advanced Placement) courses, the college-level work is strenuous, but the rewards for making the commitment & seeing it through are great. You may already know that a passing grade on a College Board AP test in high school allows a student to enter college with credit earned ahead of time. Each year Tuscola has a significant number of students who enter college with various amounts of credit earned through AP courses. To compensate for the increased difficulty of the AP & Advanced courses, AP classes are weighted with two extra points awarded in computing a student's Grade Point Average, while Advanced courses are awarded one extra point.

Please understand Tuscola's policies concerning all advanced courses. Once students have made their final class selections, changes will not be made except in cases of administrative decisions. Thus, both students & parents should be very certain of the commitment they are making. Additionally, students taking AP classes are offered the National Advanced Placement Test for each AP course at a cost of \$89 per test, which a student must take & pass in order to receive college credit. The fee for each test will be collected in December. Please understand that class availability will be based on student interested and qualification. Therefore a class may or may not be available and the number of sections will also be determined by this.

Should you have any questions concerning the AP courses or tests, please feel free to contact the Tuscola Counseling Center at 456 – 2408.

I have reviewed the contents of this letter as well as criteria & modifications listed for each AP course to which my child is applying. I understand the AP courses require college level work which is much more rigorous than normal high school courses. I also understand that participation in any AP class requires that my child pass the National Advanced Placement Test in order to receive college credit.

Student (Print Name) _____

Student Signature (Sign Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Print Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Sign Name) _____

Advanced Physics Application Form

Name _____ Date _____

Please Return by February 19, 2014

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the main principles of mechanics and energetics. It requires students to actively investigate the physical world and use algebraic and geometric representations to describe and compare data collected from experiments. Basic engineering principles will be explored to develop a technological understanding of the constraints on physical structures. Problem-solving labs will include computer simulations and digital data collection. This class builds a foundation for more advanced physics and engineering courses.

Course Prerequisites & Co-requisite

- A or B in Algebra II or Math II
- Enrolled in Pre-Calculus or other advanced math class

Requirements

Students will be expected to complete online assignments and should have a strong background in math. In addition, students will be expected to collaborate online using a class website. Therefore reliable access to the internet is advised.

Procedure

1. Have your current math teacher sign the attached recommendation statement.
2. Read the attached statement and sign.
3. Have your parents read the attached statement and sign.
4. Send Ms. Neff an email from an address where you can be reached.

Her email is: rneff@haywood.k12.nc.us

Physics Recommendation

Current Math Teacher: _____

Please sign if you agree that this student has demonstrated academic ability and maturity and is capable of succeeding in my advanced physics class.

Teacher Signature _____ Date _____

Parent and Student Agreement

Student: _____ (printed name)

The advanced physics class is a difficult, fast paced and mathematically rigorous class. It is significantly harder to receive an A in this class. The tests and curriculum will be more challenging than any class you have had in the past. You must be prepared to spend adequate time studying and completing online assignments (the expectation is a minimum of 30 minutes each day).

I have read the above statement and understand the commitment required for this class. I am willing to invest the time and effort required.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____