

Advanced Placement and/or Honors English Application

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 and seeing it through are great. You may already know that a passing grade on a College Board AP test in high school may allow 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 and Honors courses, AP classes are weighted with two extra points awarded in computing a student's Grade Point Average, while *Honors* 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 and parents should be very certain of the commitment involved in taking the course. 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 and 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 interest and qualifications, therefore a class may or may not be available, and the number of class sections can change.

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 and 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) _____

Tuscola High School
English Department
Honors/ AP English Application

You must submit the application by the deadline to be considered for the course. This application is due to be completed and returned to the THS counseling center by 3:15 on February 19, 2014.

STUDENT NAME: _____

CURRENT GRADE LEVEL (Circle One): 9 10 11 12

CURRENT ENGLISH TEACHER _____

APPLYING FOR: (Check One)

- _____ Honors English II
- _____ Honors English III
- _____ Honors English IV

- * _____ AP Language and Composition (11th Grade)
- * _____ AP Literature and Composition (12th Grade)

*Do you want to be considered for Honors English if you are **not** placed in an AP class? (Circle One) YES NO

In an Honors or Advanced Placement class, you can plan on having homework each night. Some nights, the reading and writing will take a significant amount of time. The texts are rigorous and challenging. You have to be willing to brainstorm, actively read texts, actively re-read texts, discuss, problem solve, analyze, synthesize, research, collaborate, debate, form articulate arguments, think critically, present information, and utilize technology to complete assignments and enhance learning. If you do not have the time or the motivation to make this class a priority, you may want to reconsider taking Honors or AP English. Advanced Placement classes will follow a syllabus approved by the College Board. Students who take an Advanced Placement class are required to take the corresponding exam in May.

There are a limited number of Honors and Advanced Placement seats available. Placement will be based on a committee decision. The committee will include English teachers, our school LEAD teacher, guidance counselors, and school administrators. Testing data, teacher recommendation, English grades (past and present), and the successful completion of the application process, as well as the student response on a required writing sample* will be considered by the committee when determining the appropriate English placement of students.

***Writing Sample Must Be Completed in Current English Class**

Please note that individual course descriptions via the *THS Course Catalog* are available in the THS Counseling Center.

STUDENT NAME (PRINT) _____

CLASS TO WHICH STUDENT IS APPLYING _____

I understand that if I am placed in an Honors or Advanced Placement class, I will be assigned a significant amount of reading, writing and analysis of texts. I will be assigned rigorous and challenging works, and will be expected to come to class prepared, and will actively participate in class discussion, group activities, and presentations. I understand that I will be asked to utilize technology to complete many assignments and to enhance learning. I also understand that if I take an Advanced Placement class, I will be required to take the AP exam. I understand that there is a fee for the Advanced Placement exam.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

I understand that if my child is placed in an Honors or Advanced Placement class, he or she will be assigned a significant amount of reading, writing and analysis of texts. I understand that the readings will be rigorous and challenging, and that he or she will be expected to come to class prepared, and that he or she will actively participate in class discussion, group activities and presentations. I understand that my child will be asked to utilize technology to complete many assignments and to enhance learning. I also understand that the Advanced Placement classes are required to take the corresponding AP Exam. I understand that there is a fee for this Advanced Placement exam.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

REQUIRED WRITING SAMPLE*

***Students will complete a writing sample in his or her current English class.**