

Hello Parents!

**The 2017-18 school year began smoothly, despite the rain on the first day of school! Students in AP courses at San Tan Foothills High School are engaging in a variety of activities. Each AP class is listed below with the big ideas for August.**

## AP Biology

Our introduction to AP Biology focuses on the Nature of Science and The Chemistry of Life. Some of the big takeaways from this unit will be include focusing on the scientific method with emphasis on the fact that there is not ONE way to do science. Also we will learn how to explain the differences between scientific fact and theory. As part of our Chemistry of Life study, we will identify the basic elements of all living organisms, distinguish the difference between inorganic and organic compounds, discuss water's unique properties, investigate organic compounds, discuss metabolism as it applies to the laws of thermodynamics, and investigate enzymes structure and function. Our class will be a mix between notes, reading and investigative labs.

## AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus will be delving deeper into derivatives and learning about the True-slope formula. This is not your garden variety math. We will be delving deeper into the understanding and relationships behind some of the most common aspects of mathematics. What does Area have to do with Perimeter? How can I represent a constant change in growth if every variable is in a continuous state of flux? Calculus has the answers. I am excited for this year and can't wait to see where these bright minds go.

## AP Government & Macroeconomics

Students will be examining the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and tracing the decision to forego the Articles of Confederation and create the U.S. Constitution. During our study of the Constitution, students will examine the Constitution in light of the Social Contract theory. Finally, we will take a look at the Federalist/Anti-Federalist movement and students will write an essay based on the arguments for and against a strong Federal government.

## AP English Language & Composition

AP Language students are starting the year with an analysis of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* to compare how unique genres are created and overlap, as well as how diction and tone convey an author's purpose. Quarter 1 will focus on the relationship between language and identity in nonfiction texts. The AP Lang exam includes 3 types of essays; this quarter we will focus on rhetorical analysis through practice and timed writing assignments. Other major assignments include a personal definition essay and group presentation.

## AP English Literature & Composition

AP Lit: AP Literature will start the year with lessons learned from their summer reading assignment, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster. Students will present group lessons to the class and apply Foster's concepts to literature, including various poetry. We will then study characterization in the British novel through an analysis of Dicken's *Great Expectations* and Shelly's *Frankenstein*. Major assignments will include numerous timed write analysis essays, Socratic Seminar, and reading quizzes.

## Pre-AP Capstone: Honors World History & Geography, Honors English 9 and Pre-Calc

### Honors World History & Geography

The students are beginning the year honing their research and geography skills through guided inquiry. The students will compare and contrast the Neolithic and Paleolithic eras. In addition, they will analyze early civilizations and empires. The students will explore and apply geography concepts key to each era. The students will complete writing prompts, author a children's book, complete geography activities, and conduct research for their term paper.

### Honors English 9

Freshmen in Honors English 9 will be doing a geocaching project as part of their hero's quest unit. The students will use gps to go on their own hero's quest.

### Honors English 10

Sophomores in Honors English 10 are starting the quarter studying the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. In addition to in-depth analysis of the setting, themes, and characters, we will focus on using textual evidence to support inferences from the text. We will study how the author's culture is reflected in a piece of literature and the social and historical context of the novel. Projects and major assignments include two Socratic Seminars, a group presentation, creative project, and a formal literary analysis essay.

### Honors Pre-Calculus

Students are beginning right where they left off last year in Algebra 2. Some of the big ideas they will be reviewing and receiving this first semester include Upper degree polynomials, a complete understanding of the 12 basic functions: including what the equations look like, how to graph them, and what are some key components needed when analyzing. Other key concepts would include Trigonometric functions. They were first introduced to SOHCAHTOA in Geometry, but now we will take this to a whole new level as we start analyzing the meaning behind degrees and wavelengths. I am really excited to get into the material with these intelligent individuals.



**2017-18 AP Capstone Staff Team**

**Mrs. Perales, Mr. Carrell, Mrs. Stangler, Mr. Novak, Ms. Wasson, Mr. Weeks, Ms. White, and Mrs. Coppel**

**AP Biology, AP Calculus AB, Hr World History & Geography, Hr English 9, AP Seminar, AP Government & Macroeconomics, AP English Language & Composition and AP English Literature & Composition, Director of AP Capstone Program**

**For more information, please contact Mrs. Valencia Coppel at 480-474-6240 x5725.**