

Westlake High School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

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Dear Parents and AP Students,

I hope everyone is well. I wanted to give you some specific updates with regards to the College Board and AP Examinations. The College Board has provided us with an outline for what they are crafting to be this year's AP Examination format. All AP courses, with the exception of AP Studio Art and AP Principles of Computer Science, will be assessed through an online, 45-minute exam. This exam will not be multiple choice, instead it will have some form of free response question format that will conform to the writing expectations already embedded within the course.

Additionally, these exams will be administered on two different test dates at a later date than originally calendared. The College Board has not published these dates yet, but has promised to have those test dates public by April 3. Schools are awaiting guidance on whether we will have the choice of when to administer collectively as a school or whether individual courses/teachers will choose to test or even still whether individual students will have the choice of those two dates. As I receive more information on this after April 3, I will communicate this out to all of you.

I am aware that there are many questions surrounding the validity of these online tests, how they will be scored, will colleges accept the scores for credit, etc. I have pasted below the language College Board has shared in regard to these questions:

Colleges support this solution and are committed to ensuring that AP students receive the credit they have worked this year to earn. For decades, colleges have accepted a shortened AP Exam for college credit when groups of students have experienced emergencies.

- *Students will be able to take these streamlined exams on any device they have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone. Taking a photo of handwritten work will also be an option.*

Test security is a concern.

- *The exam questions are designed and administered in ways that prevent cheating; we use a range of digital security tools and techniques, including plagiarism detection software, to protect the integrity of the exams.*
- *Scoring at-home work for an AP Exam is not new to the AP Program. For years the AP Program has received and scored at-home student work as part of the exams for the AP Computer Science Principles and AP Capstone courses. – Source: College Board*

Most importantly, I held a meeting with all our AP teachers on Monday (March 23) and each teacher shared where they are in their curriculum in relation to the new truncated course requirements outlined by the College Board. Each teacher was confident in their report that students would be very well positioned to take their AP exam given where they were in their instruction and the extended test dates. This will provide our AP students the ability to review important concepts and themes as well as have extensive practice prior to the exam. Additionally, all AP teachers will be posting on their class pages new resources provided by the College Board that will be helpful tools for all students to use in the coming weeks.

Each AP teacher will continue to share information through their class pages with respect to their specific course and I will do the same. I know that these are very unique times and these changes in format, content and test dates will place our students in the best position to do well on these high stakes exams. That being said, the College Board has included in these changes the ability to get a refund if your child chooses not to test. What is uncertain at this time is whether a decision to not take the exam would force us to remove the AP designation from a transcript.

I hope this helps to answer some of the questions that have surfaced right now, and we will do our best to answer other questions as they are asked. Stay well.

Dedicated to excellence,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Schenker', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Keith Schenker