



Advanced Placement Contract 2020 - 2021

Name: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Students taking an Advanced Placement (AP) course at Madeira understand the following statements:

1. **An AP course is the equivalent to a college-level course.** The curriculum for an AP course, as set by College Board, is designed to prepare students to take a national exam in May. Madeira students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the AP exam in that course and retain the score.
2. **Taking an AP course means having to complete assignments at a very fast pace.** The pace of an AP course is set by College Board. To develop the skills necessary and to learn the content required for the AP exam, the course must move at a steady (some say rapid) pace. The student in an AP course must feel comfortable if the class moves on to another skill or new content before she has mastered the previous skills and content.
3. **Taking an AP means doing more work.** You can expect to have longer reading assignments, more writing assignments, more work to be prepared outside of class, and more work to be completed over school vacations and the summer.
4. **The content and the skills in an AP course are more sophisticated than those in a previous course in the same subject area.** While students may have mastered the skills and content in non-AP courses, typically they will not master them quickly or as easily the skills and content of an AP course.
5. **Students moving into an AP course rarely see their grades go up.** In fact, students moving from a non-AP to an AP class often find that their grades drop at first. For example, if you earned an A in Advanced Precalculus or French III, it is possible you will have a B in AP Calculus AB or AP French. Students should not expect their grades to go up. If you are a student for whom it is important to see your grades go up from one year to the next, then an AP class may not be right for you.
6. **Just because you are eligible to take an AP course does not mean you should take an AP course.** Students who have a deep interest and love for the course material, who are willing to work longer hours, who can work independently and think abstractly in the discipline, AND who can balance such a commitment with their other obligations and goals tend to have the most positive experiences in an AP course.
7. **The add/drop period for an AP course is the first two days of the course.** After that time, students may request to withdraw from the course and earn a withdraw/pass or withdraw/fail. We cannot guarantee that you will be able to move into a different level of the course that school year.
8. **AP exam fees are charged home in September.** Each exam fee is approximately \$100 and is non-refundable.

Student: Your signature below indicates that you have read the statements about taking an AP course at Madeira carefully and you understand the expectations of an AP course and the impact it will have on your time and academic life.

Student signature: _____

Parent: Your signature below indicates that you and your daughter have read the statements about taking an AP course at Madeira and understand the expectations of an AP course and the impact it will have on her time and academic life.

Parent signature: _____