

## **Palo Alto High School Advanced Placement Classes Contract**

**(Attach signed document to course selection form and make a copy for your records)**

Palo Alto High School supports any student who wishes to accept the challenge of Advanced Placement (AP) classes. With that challenge come certain expectations regarding the maturity and capabilities of the enrolled students. Please remember that **Advanced Placement courses are college level courses**. Students should be motivated to take an AP class by an appreciation for the subject. Students who are overextended with academics and/or extracurricular activities should seriously consider if they have time to devote to an AP class and the number of AP classes they can successfully complete. Palo Alto High School suggests a maximum of two AP classes per semester.

### **Students are expected to:**

1. Be independent learners, willing to read, learn, ask questions, pursue outside reading and research, integrate and discuss material from diverse sources.
2. Meet any prerequisites prior to enrolling in an AP course.
3. Prepare for and take tests on time.
4. Accept that enrollment in an AP course does not guarantee an A or B grade.
5. Spend more than the average amount of time on work outside of class.

### **Students who enroll in an AP course and their parent/guardian must sign the following written contract:**

1. I recognize that I have to demonstrate independence and responsibility. AP courses typically require more homework compared to non-AP college prep courses.
2. I commit to remain enrolled in the AP courses I have chosen for the entire year (or semester for AP Econ). If special circumstances arise and I must drop an AP course, I understand there may not be space available in a college prep class. I understand I may have to delay taking a required class because of my drop.
3. I understand that Palo Alto High School does not recommend students take more than two AP classes per year.
4. I understand there may be a prerequisite for an AP/Honors course as outlined in the Paly/Gunn course catalog. By enrolling in an AP/Honors course, I certify that I meet these prerequisites.
5. I agree to uphold Palo Alto High School's Academic Integrity Policy (<http://www.paly.net/academic-integrity-policy>).
6. I will speak with my parent/guardian, teacher, teacher advisor or guidance counselor if I start feeling overwhelmed with my academic workload.
7. I realize that by enrolling in an Advanced Placement course I am expected to take the corresponding Advanced Placement Examination in May. Funding support for this examination may be available for students with demonstrated financial need.
8. I will complete the Time Management Worksheet to the best of my ability and use this tool in selecting my courses to maintain a balanced life.

