

# Advanced Placement Course Selection: It's all about **BALANCE**

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**McLean High School**

**2018-19**

**Handouts and resources:**

<https://mcleanhs.fcps.edu/academics/advanced-academics>

# What Is AP?



- AP = Advanced Placement
- College level curriculum and skills in the high school setting
- Classes culminate in the AP Exam, scored on a 1-5 scale
- Scores above 3 are considered “passing”; colleges vary on what credit they will award for each score

# Benefits of AP

- College credit
- Rigorous coursework and advanced skill development
- Opportunity to grow knowledge base in desired field



# MHS Advanced Academics Goal

We want students to:

Be healthy and balanced.

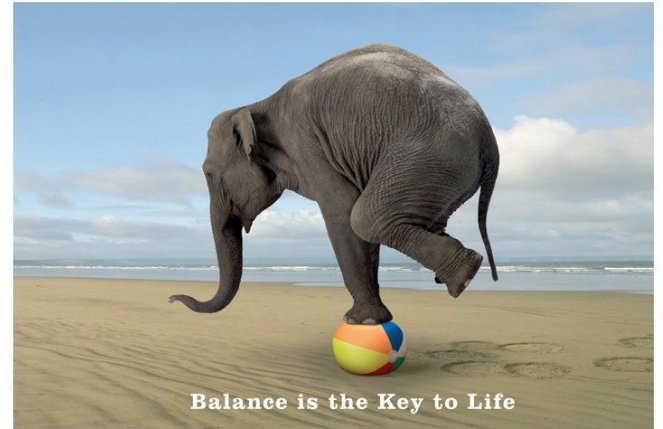
Find their passions.

Find the **right** challenges.

Seek support.

Develop their talents.

Develop a positive self image.



# MHS offers 26 AP Courses

We have a wide variety of courses for your student to choose from.

Our priority is to help your student choose the courses that will develop their skills and interests while not overwhelming them with too many AP classes.

\*please see the McLean HS website for a list of Advanced Academic Course offerings and questions to consider with your student



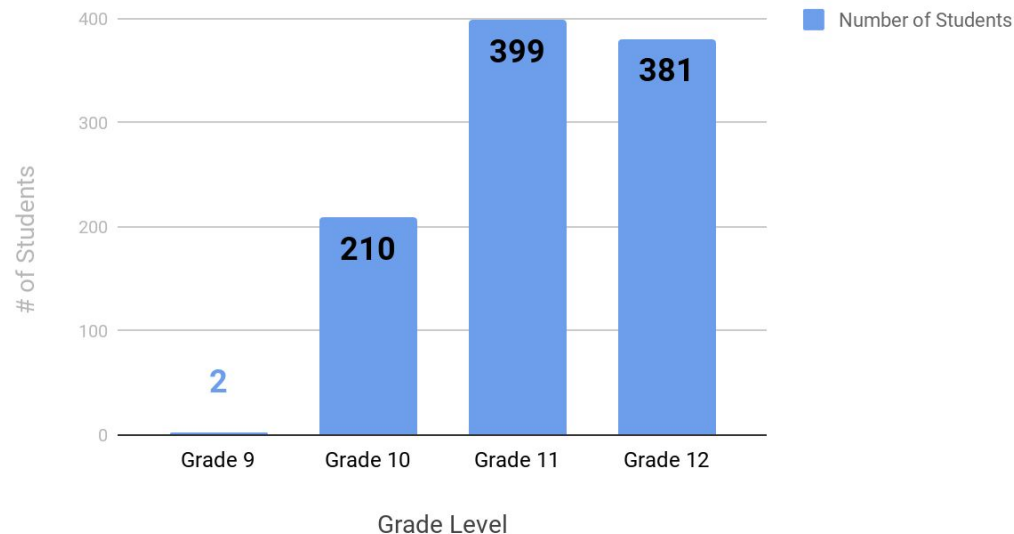
**KEEP  
CALM  
AND MAKE  
INFORMED  
CHOICES**

# MHS AP ENROLLMENT STATS - 2018

In 2018....

- **992** MHS students were enrolled in at least one AP course, which was **46%** of the student body.
- MHS students took a total of **2,354** AP exams.

2018 AP Enrollment by Grade Level

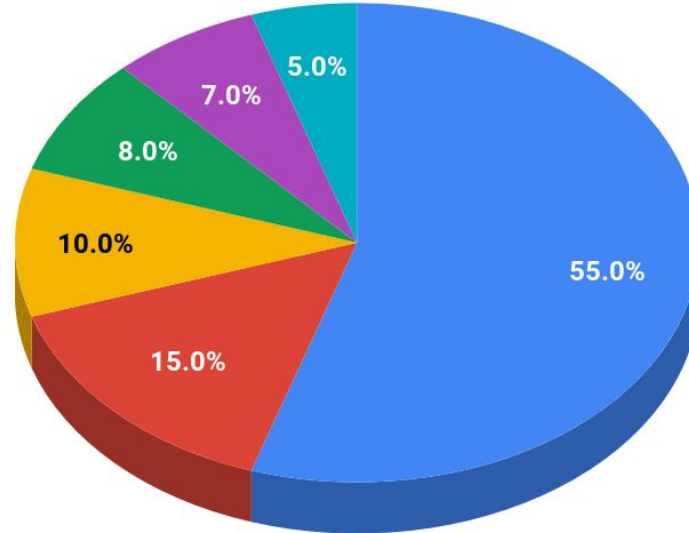


\*Data gathered from College Board AP Data Report (2017)

# MHS AP ENROLLMENT STATS - 2018

## MHS AP Enrollment 2018

- No AP Courses
- 1 AP Course
- 2 AP Courses
- 3 AP Courses
- 4 AP Courses
- 5+ AP Courses



# MHS AP ENROLLMENT STATS - 2018

- 1 AP Course = 335 or 34% of AP Students
- 2 AP Courses = 218 or 22% of AP Students
- 3 AP Courses = 178 or 18% of AP Students
- 4 AP Courses = 155 or 15% of AP Students
- 5+ AP Courses = 111 or 11% of AP Students

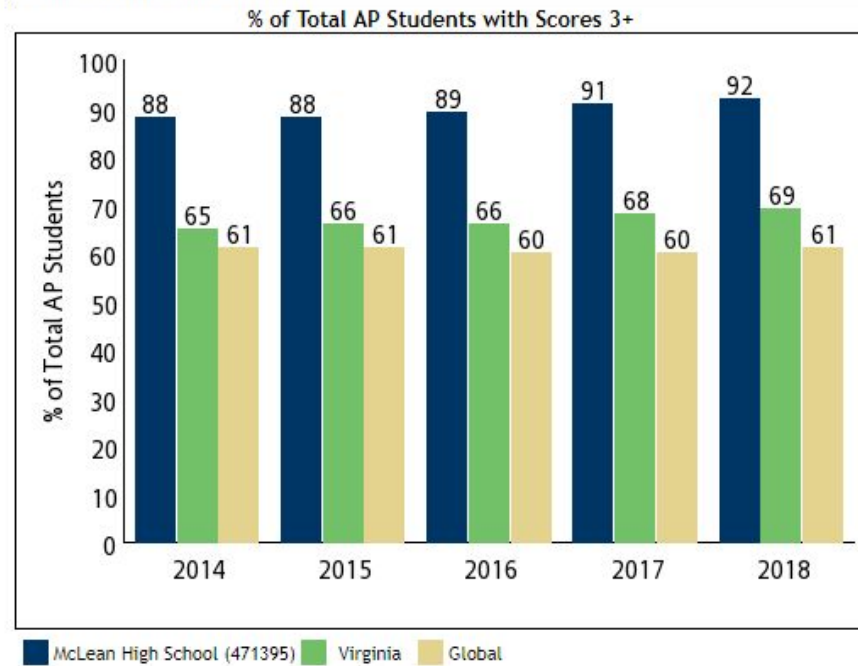
**\*731 (74%) AP Students took 3 or fewer AP courses in 2018**



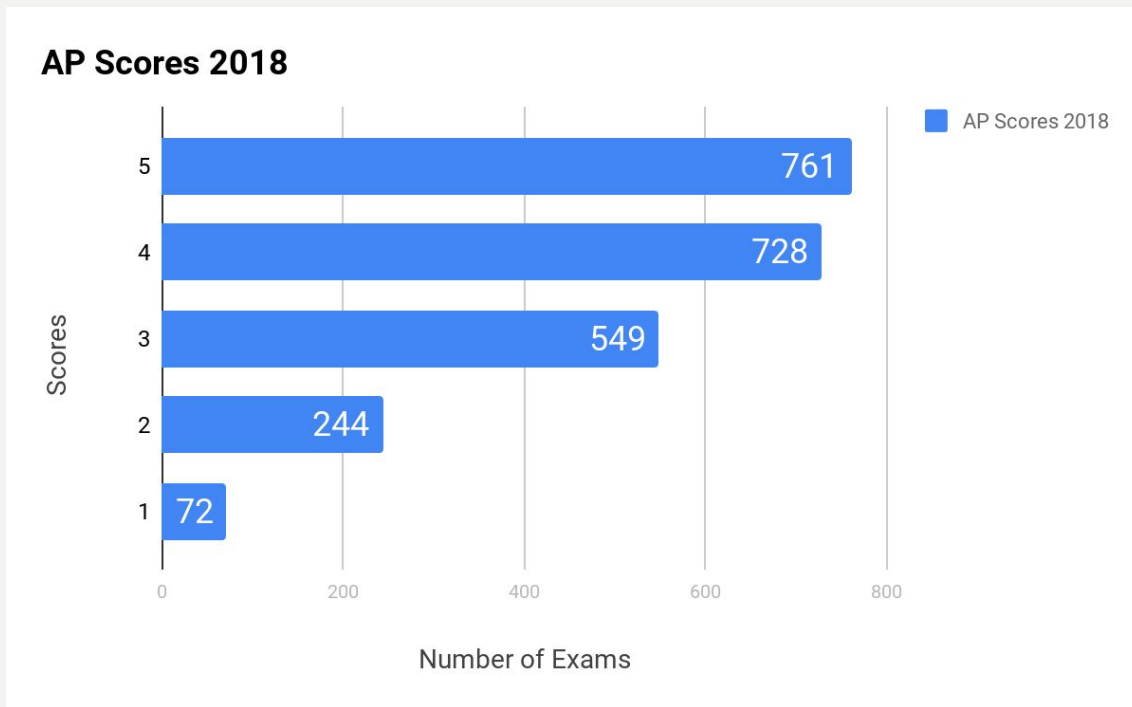
# HISTORICAL DATA: STUDENTS WITH SCORES OF 3+

In 2018, 92% of McLean AP students earned at least one score of 3, 4 or 5.

McLean High School (471395)



# AP SCORE BREAKDOWN: MAY 2018



\*Please note that most colleges do not give credit for AP scores of 1 or 2.

# The Goldilocks Principle - just right

The “right” number of AP classes varies per student, there is no magic number.

It is better to take one or two per year and earn higher marks than to overload and earn mediocre ones



\*page 3 of the documents shows factors in admission decisions from college admissions offices



## Colleges want to see **consistency** in a student's schedule

Consistency does not mean taking all AP courses; rather, taking consistent course levels within a content area.

If your student takes, enjoys and excels in an advanced Social Studies course as a Freshman, Sophomore and Junior, they should also take one Senior year (generally speaking).

# It is important to select courses carefully

The goal is for every student to start the year with a schedule that allows them to have ***balance***.

It is likely there will be **very limited room** next year when dropping courses, and students may incur an **AP non-testing fee** if they drop after the Exam registration deadline

# Help your student pursue what interests them

Continue talking to them about their current classes, what classes they want to take in the future, and **why they want to take them**

Encourage conversations with teachers and school counselors

Help them understand that **they** will be handling the course load, not their friends

# FCPS AP Exam Policy

- Please keep in mind that the county-wide AP policy states FCPS will only pay for the first 6 AP exams a student takes over his/her high school career. This policy change may factor into your student's course selection.
- The AP exam fee for the 2018-19 school year is \$93.00 per exam (for students who have exceeded the 6 exam limit).

There are a variety of documents available on the MHS website designed to assist students in selecting the right courses for them. Please go to **ACADEMICS > ADVANCED** to learn more

- AP courses offered at McLean HS, with general course expectations
- level descriptions between Gen Ed/Honors/AP
- questions to discuss with your student when considering AP courses
- daily scheduling chart to see what will fit your family's priorities



# Thank you!

7:25-7:40 - AP World History - cafeteria

7:45-8:00 - AP Computer Science A vs Principles - B186

7:25-8:00 - Course Info Fair

B 175/177 - Capstone

English

Social Studies

General AP Info

B 182/184 - Computer Science

Fine Arts

Math

Science

Other information from this evening will be available on the McLean High School website under **ACADEMICS > ADVANCED**