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Maverick Honors/AP News

THIS ISSUE: “VIRTUAL MEETING” SO THAT YOU DON’T HAVE TO GO TO **ANOTHER!**

The goal of the Maverick Honors/AP (or MAVHaps) is to provide a forum for LCC Honors and AP Teachers to enhance professional practice, strengthen our excellent advanced programs, and facilitate Important information.

AP Exams: Coming up with big changes!

The AP Exam season is upon us, and there are important changes to the way exams are being conducted. Our district has contracted with Elloise Bennett, former district Assistant Principal, to coordinate and conduct AP Exams. In short, this means that Elloise is responsible for exam registration, facilities scheduling, rostering and assignment of students to test locations, choosing and training proctors, and actual implementation of exam procedures and policies on exam day. This means that LCC Administration’s role is minimized from the past and is more of a conduit to

ease the process. With this comes new procedures—and a completely coordinated online registration process with minimal cash payment opportunities on campus.

These changes will be outlined in this issue. In short, important changes include:

- Students **no longer** pay for AP Exams at the LCC Finance Office.
- Deadlines for registration and for Fee Waivers (for eligible students) are now absolute.
- Cash and check payments for AP Exams will be coordinated during two on-campus dates.



Speaking of Big Changes...

The New York Times recently published an in-depth article discussing the relevancy of the Advanced Placement Program and how the College Board is responding to criticisms from universities and from teachers. Believe it or not, it looks like they’ve finally listened to teachers of subjects with monumental curricular content. See the article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/09/education/>



New: Online Registration

In the past, students had the option of registering for their exams online, while a majority of our students paid for exams at the LCC Finance Office. **THIS PROCESS IS NOW VERY DIFFERENT.** The old paper registration forms will **not** be distributed this year. For most registrants, registration is now **ONLINE** at: <http://www.aptestservice.com>. Families may pay by PayPal account (if they wish to have the amount debited from their checking account), or they may pay by any major credit card through a secure online service. Please see the related section on reverse for students who wish to pay either by cash or by physical check.

DEADLINE FOR REGULAR REGISTRATION: March 18, 2011.



AP Fee Reduction

For students whose families are experiencing financial difficulty, the possibility of fee reductions does exist. Students must meet guidelines established by the federal government, which have thresholds based on family size and annual income. Students meeting this qualification are eligible for a fee reduction and will pay only \$5.00 per exam.

1040 (or 1040-EZ) tax forms are requested for proof. Students who are on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program are eligible for this reduction and can list their lunch number on the form.

Once completed, students bring the form to Mark Van Over's office. If they wish to pay by cash or by physical check, those payments will be accepted at that time (this applies only to fee reduction requests; the form IS

their registration form). If they wish to pay by credit card, they will contact AP Test Service for special information how to register.

Forms are available at the website by [CLICKING HERE](#) or attached to this e-mail. (Forms in Spanish are available by [CLICKING HERE](#)).

DEADLINE: March 15 is the firm deadline for all fee reductions. Students cannot qualify after this date.

Students not meeting federal guidelines may be eligible for a partial fee reduction (but, not necessarily a \$5.00 fee). They should complete the Fee Waiver Request form and visit Mark Van Over's office for more information.

Payment by Cash or Physical Check

Students wishing to pay by cash or by physical check can do so at the following times:

Wednesday, February 23:

Lunch

Thursday, February 24:

Lunch and after school until 3:00

Friday, February 25:

Lunch and after school until 3:00

The Finance Office will NOT accept cash/check payments.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES



Regular Registration (\$98):
Jan 25– March 18

Late Registration (\$120):
March 18 – 28

There is a \$3.00 processing fee per exam.

Info for Exams and Your Class

Recent investigative reports by the San Diego Union-Tribune have led to an increase in scrutiny over the types of fees and charges associated with attending school.

The 2004 settlement brokered by the ACLU, known popularly as the Williams' Settlement, stipulated that students have access to books and instructional materials at no charge to them or their families. The legal interpretation of the Williams' Settlement holds that this extends to anything in the school program which would could be seen as a "requirement," for participating in a course and that would be considered essential for student success in a class. Schools can charge students for AP Exams, as they are not considered a required part of the curriculum. However, the Williams' Settlement comes into play at any point where the AP Exam may become required or incentivized in any way.

What does this mean for your AP class:

- ⇒ We are not allowed to incentivize the exam in any way; this means we **cannot require** a student to take the AP Exam.
- ⇒ We cannot offer extra credit that is conditional upon taking the exam.
- ⇒ We are not allowed to require students to take our own version of the AP Exam if they do not take the actual College Board exam.
- ⇒ We cannot require that our students purchase any materials in order to take an AP or an Honors course (i.e., specialized novels, special scientific calculators)

Remember that assistance is possible for students who cannot afford materials or for students who cannot afford to pay the full price for AP Exams.

College Board Resources

Have you checked out the resourced at the College Board website? Even for our Honors courses, the Course Home Pages at the College Board Website provides key information that can assist in enhancing our already excellent AP and Honors Program. For many subjects, new content has been added—so it may be worth a look. These resources available at http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/index.html include College Board developed units, articles of interest by leading scholars and professional organizations, sample test questions, released exams, and more.



Maverick HAPS: Next Steps

An administrative goal is to bring more cohesiveness to our outstanding LCC program, and to foster a professional community of teachers of Honors and AP students. What's next? You tell us!

What we'd like to do:

- Meet to discuss registration procedures for 2011-2012
- Meet to discuss best practices regarding exam preparation.
- Determine other topics of interest to the community.

Look for a survey very soon to gauge interest and get more input from you about how we can work together.