

AP English in CP Academy

The teachers of CP Academy have been striving to make AP English available, supported, and successful for interested CP Academy students. We developed a plan for offering AP English that fit our school's philosophy and structure. But many parents of current sophomores raised very valid concerns about the capacity of their students to handle the workload of two English classes at once. Moreover, we have seen that students are inspired by Mrs. Chen and are willing to push themselves to take on AP English because of her leadership.

Because of our commitment as a small school to integrated and untracked courses, we were unable to incorporate Mrs. Chen's proposal until Mrs. Chen stepped forward with her willingness to maintain the integrity of our integrated and untracked English and History core classes by offering to differentiate instruction in her junior English classes so that students who wish to study for the AP test will receive the additional coursework within the same classroom.

With the commitment that the integrated nature of our program will be maintained and that all our juniors will receive a rigorous, college preparatory American Literature curriculum connected with the CP Academy US History curriculum we have asked our humanities department to integrate this AP English option for juniors into the curriculum mapping work they will be doing this summer.

In the meantime, Ms. Bell will work with about 20 of our seniors to pursue the AP English option as an additional English class. We are pursuing college credit for that class, so that such students will not only have AP credit for their regular English course, but will also have a college-level English course on their transcripts.

Both pilot programs will be supported, and both will be evaluated to make sure that they are successful and sustainable.

We would like to ask the Leadership Council to organize a deep, carefully structured conversation, with substantial preparation so that we can discuss the goals and pedagogical issues involved in teaching AP, and the related issues around tracking and curricular integration in order to lead a unifying discussion among our parents, students and staff about our school philosophy. This discussion will greatly strengthen our community, educate and inform all of us about the issues from a variety of perspectives, and ensure that our program is truly meeting the needs of all our students.

We also would like the Leadership Council to play a role in monitoring student achievement in these classes.