

September/ October
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Volume 1, Issue 1

AP/IB/Advanced Curriculum

Upcoming Events:

- 9/26 & 9/27
2- day College Board
Vertical Team Training
- 9/28/07
AP Advisory Council
meeting
- 10/11/07
NC IB conference
- 2/13/08
AP Forum

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AP Grants

The AP department in the Middle and Secondary Education division has launched its mission to increase the enrollment of underrepresented students in Advanced Placement and other advanced curriculum courses with the help of two important grants.

North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction (DPI) was awarded the AP Incentive (APIP) grant. This grant was awarded by the Department of Education for a three-year period. Through the grant, twenty schools have been selected to participate in the grant's activities.

The Division of Middle and Secondary Education's AP Program Coordinator within DPI collaborated with the Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) program to select schools to participate in the grant. Schools currently participating in the CSR program were invited to participate in the AP Incentive Grant program (APIP).

Six grant goals have been

outlined in order to reach the mission. These goals are: 1. increase student enrollment in online courses, including Chinese, 2. provide online AP and Pre-AP courses, including online Chinese I-III to prepare students for rigorous coursework, 3. provide professional development in vertical teaming, Habits of Mind, and Bloom's Taxonomy, 4. develop and provide summer AP academies to prepare underrepresented students for advanced coursework, 5. increase AP courses offered in targeted districts by paying tuition for secondary teachers to attend College Board sponsored summer institutes, and 6. to increase parental and business community involvement by promoting pre-AP and AP courses.

On Thursday, August 9, 2007 an AP Informational Meeting was held to introduce participating school to the grant and its activities (for more information about the APIP grant visit

www.ncpublicschools.org/

[apinitatives](#)).

In addition to the APIP grant, the Division of Middle and Secondary Education will continue to pursue the AP Test Reduction grant. This grant continues the divisions' mission for AP programming by providing funding for students who are not able to pay to take the AP test.

It is anticipated that the AP Test Reduction grant will be posted to the federal registry shortly. An announcement will be sent to the AP/ IB coordinators when the AP department has received funds. Offer fee reduction fees to qualifying students for the 2008 test administration.

What's new with NC's AP Program?



“Increasing the enrollment of underrepresented students in Advance Placement, International Baccalaureate and other advance curriculums.”



The AP department is working with LEARN NC and the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) to launch online Chinese courses to include Chinese I through AP Chinese. Chinese I began as a piloted course through NCVPS in August 2007 when the traditional school calendar began. Plans have been made to offer the course as a pilot again at the beginning of second semester (Jan. 2008). Work is underway for the development of Chinese II. Additionally, a timeline for production of Chinese III, IV, and AP Chinese is underway. NCDPI is excited about the advancement of the Chinese program.

In moving towards a more global society, it is important that students expand their knowledge of different cultures and learn new and intriguing languages in order to communicate in society. North Carolina is leading the charge in endorsing AP Chinese.

In August 2007, North Carolina Virtual Public Schools (NCVPS) launched 13 AP classes. These classes allow highly motivated, independent learners to seek rigorous coursework online. Visit www.ncvps.org for a listing of available online AP courses.

The AP department is in

support of differences in student learning styles. Online coursework provides an alternative to the traditional classroom setting for students who may be interested in a different learning environment. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. Students seeking registration information should make an appointment with the school counselor.

The AP department is proud to announce the reinstatement of the AP Advisory Council. The AP Advisory Council consists of individuals from different sectors of the educational arena from across the state of North Carolina. The council will provide recommendations on strategies that can be employed to reach the divisions' mission of increasing the enrollment of underrepresented students in Advanced Placement and other advanced curriculum courses. The council will meet twice annually for a period of three years.