

## ***A Few Reminders about Optional AP Exams***

*Why would you take these exams?*

Keep in mind that AP exams are not required by colleges and for the most part are not a formal part of the application process. We record on your transcript any scores of 4 or 5, but beyond that you wait until you decide where you're enrolling to send official AP scores to them. While some selective colleges have moved away from issuing course credit for high scores, they will often still use scores for placement or to waive a prerequisite. Again, then, even if you don't get college credit that might allow you to graduate earlier, you could still place out of a lower-level intro course.

Taking them is an investment of time and money--you'll be busy in May!--and in addition to the time you spend preparing you'll miss class during the exam itself (although there are no classes for juniors on the day of the AP English exam). In many ways, there's little risk insofar as if you don't do well your scores need not be reported anywhere. If you have specific questions about whether these tests might be a good fit for you, you can check in with your English or history teacher. In the spring, each department typically shares some review material you can use to prepare.

**Students who wish to take Advanced Placement exams in May must sign up for them in the fall, by November 3.** Students enrolled in an AP class are required to sit for the exam and will sign up in their AP class with their teacher's guidance. Students enrolled in a non-AP class for which JBS offers an exam (i.e., Statistics or Economics) have the option of taking that exam and that teacher will provide sign-up procedure information. Students wishing to take the AP English Language exam and/or AP US History exam must personally log in to their College Board account to sign up for these exams with registration information provided to them in Common Day advisory meeting on October 26. Historically, 85% of our juniors typically elect to sit for the AP English Language exam while some 70% choose to take the US History exam.