

# AP Parent Night Helping Students, Parents Learn about Classes

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AHS’ AP Parent Night was held on Feb. 4 from 6 to 7:30 P.M. AP Parent Night allowed both parents and students to find out more information about an Advanced Placement (AP) class.

“I was interested in taking AP classes to challenge myself because I’ve only taken one this year. I saw AP night as an opportunity to check out other classes so I came,” junior Erica Ninh said.

The night officially began in the auditorium with a presentation from Rosa Northcott, AHS’ Assistant Principal of Instruction. Both students and parents who attended the presentation received general information on AP and honors classes.

The presentation informed parents and students about what AP classes are and the considerations to take before signing up for them. AP classes are college-level classes that give students the opportunity to pursue college-level studies in preparation for higher education and to earn college credits by passing the AP exam.

According to Northcott, before signing up for an AP class students must consid-

er several things. For example, they must consider the expectations and prerequisites for each AP course selected. Further-

in class to keep pace with the curriculum. “[Before selecting an AP class] I think it’s really important to understand what



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

Freshman Alexandra Slusser-Banh stops by the math department during AHS’ second annual AP Parent Night on Thursday, Feb. 4.

more, they must understand that taking an AP requires a demonstration of effort, maturity and commitment. Students are expected to be attentive and to participate

you’re able to handle both academically and emotionally because AP course work requires real commitment,” Northcott said.

After the presentation, AP Ambassa-

dors, an on-campus club centered around tutoring students and encouraging them to take honors and AP classes, hosted a walkthrough in D building. Teachers and students of AP classes in the Math, Science, Social Science, English, Foreign Languages and Visual and Performing Arts departments had the opportunity to discuss with parents and students the way their classes work and the expectations teachers’ hold for their students. Students were also able to see what kind of work teachers of certain AP classes give out.

“I think this will be good to help me [see] which exact classes I should take that support my career in the future [and] which classes would be less important for my major,” freshman Grace Montero said.

During the walkthrough in D building, students not only received information from teachers but also from students as well.

“We want people to know what a college level class is like. Oftentimes students see the class course list and get overwhelmed [so] we want them to see the benefits of each class. AP/Honors Parent Night used to have one teacher from each [academic branch] but now students that took the class to help [other] students know what’s expected,” advisor of AP Ambassadors Nancy Padilla said.

# College Board President Helps Align New SAT with Common Core Standards

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A new SAT was proposed in 2014 by College Board president David Coleman, who also helped design the curriculum of Common Core. According to The Atlantic, when Coleman became the College Board president in 2012, he stated that he desired to change the SAT to better reflect Common Core standards and better meet the needs of schools and students. The changes would include no penalty for incorrect answers, removal of obscure vocabulary words and making the essay optional. Coleman also initiated a partnership with the Khan Academy to provide free test prep resources.

While the previously mentioned changes may sound appealing, some of the changes might result in some negative feedback. For instance, questions will require multiple steps to acquire an answer and

reasoning and critical thinking will be a very important factor in the test. According to the Princeton Review, although the new SAT will consist of fewer sections, the sections will also be longer in time.

College Board does not specifically point to Common Core as the foundation for the new

students, I feel as though the test will hinder their ability because they were introduced to Common Core rather suddenly and I know of some people who are still not used to the curriculum,” senior Amy Leung said.

According to Education Week, the new SAT will have huge similarities with Com-

“ “It will be beneficial to those who started out with Common Core once they started their education.” ”  
-Amy Leung, senior

change but rather states that the new SAT will make individual students more college-ready.

“I believe that it will be beneficial to those who started out with Common Core once they started their education, because it will be something that they are already used to. However, in terms of current high school

mon Core English standards. It will emphasize evidence-citing in reading and writing sections, have a wide range of documents covering topics such as social studies and science, and test on vocabulary that is commonly used in college. For math sections, the SAT also focus more on

algebra, data analysis and problem solving in comparison to its previous wide-ranged focus on high school mathematics.

Regardless of these changes, it still remains to be seen whether or not the redesigned SAT will become an accurate prediction of student success in college. Students had different responses when asked if they would do better on the redesigned SAT compared to the previous test.

Some students think that the new SAT will be beneficial to them because it would test them on topics in the same format they are taught in classrooms.

“Because Common Core is implemented [now, students] should be tested the way they are taught,” junior Alina Cortez said.

Other students believe that since Common Core is still relatively new and they would need more time to adjust to the new standards.

“So far, Common Core is still new to me and I haven’t grasped the concept really well yet,” sophomore Tommy Ly said.

# San Gabriel Valley Officials Concerned By Los Angeles International Airport Flight Changes

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Starting this November, the flight path of planes coming to any of the 11 airports in California will be changed, according to the San Gabriel Valley Tribune. The current flight path for departures from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) pass over Alhambra, as well as the San Gabriel Mountains. However, under the new change, airplanes will be directed to fly over different cities of San Gabriel Valley (SGV), including Covina, El Monte and Glendora. Also, the planes arriving in LAX, which usually follow the 60 freeway, have had their paths changed as well.

The planes will now fly above regions such as La Puente, Avocado Heights, Valinda and the City of Industry 50 percent of the time during the day and 100 percent from midnight to 6 A.M.

“[The change] doesn’t really mat-

ter for Alhambra because there’s only going to be a few planes that fly by us,” freshman Winston Yan said.

The officials of these cities have expressed

Police Department to express their concerns.

Because of the comments, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) sent Steve May, senior adviser to Glen Martin, the regional



their concerns about this change, as these plans were kept a secret from the public for six months, according to San Gabriel Valley Tribune. However, they gathered at Glendora

administrator of FAA, to reassure the SGV officials that the change will not affect the lives of the citizens in these community. He says that the new paths were designed to minimize

the usage of fuel, creating less pollution. As for the noise, FAA explains that the planes will still fly at the same altitude of 10000 to 13000 feet, so the noise will not increase drastically.

“I guess [the change] might be better because [the path] will be shorter and it will save gas,” freshman Evan Cheung said.

Although the new flight path may affect the communities, it saves money. The new paths guides the plane to a smooth path, instead of zigzagging from one place to another, according to San Gabriel Valley Tribune. This will result in the less consumption of fuel, meaning that the planes won’t require as much gas. With this change, California is said to save approximately 7.8 million dollars and 2.7 million gallons of gas annually.

“I think it is a good idea because [it allows for less air pollution] sophomore Yandy Parada said.

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG