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# HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## **Herricks High School**

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### **Spring 2021 Advanced Placement Administration Options**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we look to the spring, we have begun preparing for the administration of the Advanced Placement Examinations. Due to the ongoing pandemic and the fact that many schools have both virtual and in-person learning this year, the College Board has expanded the options for AP testing, providing schools and students significant flexibility in how, where and when the tests will be administered. ([What You Need to Know About 2021 AP Exams - AP Students](#)) Since each school is different in terms of size, enrollment, and learning models, district plans may vary across schools.

After careful review and analysis of the College Board guidance and our Advanced Placement Program, we have developed the following testing calendar: [HHS AP 2021 Testing Schedule](#)

You will note that we have selected to administer exams through the first two allowable testing sessions, (May 3 - May 27). Spreading the exams over this period will hopefully lessen the number of multiple test days for students. We have reserved session three as a time to administer make-up exams.

We will administer exams, when possible, as offered by the College Board in both paper and digital computer-based formats, reserving in-school administration for the paper version and at home for digital. The exception to this is that the Chinese, French, Italian and Spanish Languages and Music Theory exams are only available by College Board as in-person examinations. Additionally, AP Calculus AB/BC, all Physics exams, Chemistry and Statistics will be offered as paper versions only. To assist us in planning for the administration, we are asking all students to select either the paper or digital administration for each exam that they are taking. Both versions of the exams are the same length of time. We hope the following information will guide you and your child in making a decision.

If you are considering having your child take a digital version of an AP exam (at home), please know that students must:

- Take the exam on a desktop or laptop computer (smartphones/iPads are not permitted.)
- Understand that digital exams are full-length exams and cover the full scope of course content. Both digital and paper exams may be up to three hours in length.
- Have reliable internet connection and a secure testing environment at home.
- Understand that digital exams will not allow students to flip through the test, skip more challenging questions and/or return to answered or unanswered questions. (This may prevent students from utilizing effective test taking strategies).

According to the College Board:

*“...compared to a paper and pencil version, a digital AP exam does not inherently affect a student’s ability to get a particular score. AP exams are designed such that a student’s AP exam score reflects the level of ability and achievement they demonstrate - not a specific predetermined number of points they earn on the exam. While different versions of an exam are intended to have comparable difficulty levels, some individual questions will be slightly easier or harder than others. Accordingly, for decades, AP has used standard and widely supported psychometric and statistical procedures, called linking and equating, to provide students with comparable scores regardless of which exam version they take. Digital testing is no exception, so even with the addition of a digital version for most AP exams, psychometricians will apply linking and equating protocols to account for differences between exam versions. This is the case for all subjects including Chemistry, Physics, Statistics, U.S. History, and World History, each of which has slightly different numbers of each question type on digital and paper.”*

While there may be a perceived preference in taking one type of exam over another, there is no inherent advantage in taking the digital exam over the paper/pencil exam.

If your personal circumstances enable you to have a choice, we would like to share that we believe that in-person, paper and pencil exams may give our students the best opportunity to demonstrate their ability in a safe and structured testing environment. Having access to the entire exam at one time will allow students to apply effective test taking strategies.

Students will be assigned to testing locations and proctored by Herricks staff. All students and staff will adhere to our Covid health and safety protocols, including mask requirements, temperature and self-assessment screening, and social distancing. However, the choice to take the digital version is certainly an option, except for those subject areas noted above.

Higher education institutions will accept AP scores equally for all versions of the exam. Accordingly, a student’s score report will not indicate which version of the exam the student takes.

No matter the choice, students will be excused from all classes on days that they are assigned to an AP exam. The day after the exam, students will return to class until the start of the Quest program. Instruction between the period of the exam and the start of Quest will include course topics that are not AP relevant. All students are expected in class, (in-person, or remotely), on May 27 in order to receive Quest instructions. For those of you unfamiliar, Quest is a program that allows students in certain AP courses to choose an alternative to the traditional school day. After completing AP exams, students will be excused from AP classes to pursue an academic or creative project or seminar of personal interest under the mentorship of a faculty member. Only students enrolled in AP courses that traditionally do not culminate in a Regents exam will participate in the Quest program. The Quest program will run from June 1 - through the end of formal classes. Please click [here](#) to view classes associated with Quest. This date is subject to change based on New York State’s finalized Regents Exam Schedule.

We will be providing additional information regarding student attendance, Quest, and AP testing details such as room assignments and approved testing accommodations through the College Board as we get closer to the testing window.

At this time, we are asking students to utilize this link to make their exam format choice for each AP exam they are registered to take this year: <https://forms.gle/xPjKKvE3TPCM1iAo6>

In order for us to plan, we kindly ask that you submit this survey to us no later than **Wednesday, April 7**.  
If you remain unsure, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We remain dedicated to ensuring that our students are fully supported and prepared.

With warm regards,



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Principal



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Natasha Khan  
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