

Advanced Placement Calculus AB

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The staff at Tuscola High is pleased that your child is considering taking one or more *advanced* classes next year. For the AP (Advanced Placement) courses, the college-level work is strenuous, but the rewards for making the commitment & seeing it through are great. You may already know that a passing grade on a College Board AP test in high school allows a student to enter college with credit earned ahead of time. Each year Tuscola has a significant number of students who enter college with various amounts of credit earned through AP courses. To compensate for the increased difficulty of the AP & Advanced courses, AP classes are weighted with two extra points awarded in computing a student's Grade Point Average, while *Advanced* courses are awarded one extra point.

Please understand Tuscola's policies concerning all *advanced* courses. Once students have made their final class selections, *changes will not be made except in cases of administrative decisions*. Thus, both students & parents should be very certain of the commitment they are making. Additionally, students taking AP classes are offered the National Advanced Placement Test for each AP course at a cost of \$89 per test, which a student must take & pass in order to receive college credit. The fee for **each** test will be collected in December. Please understand that class availability will be based on student interest and qualification. Therefore a class may or may not be available and the number of sections will also be determined by this.

Should you have any questions concerning the AP courses or tests, please feel free to contact the Tuscola Counseling Center at 456 – 2408.

I have reviewed the contents of this letter as well as criteria & modifications listed for each AP course to which my child is applying. I understand the AP courses require college level work which is much more rigorous than normal high school courses. I also understand that participation in any AP class requires that my child pass the National Advanced Placement Test in order to receive college credit.

Student (Print Name) _____

Student Signature (Sign Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Print Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Sign Name) _____

Advanced Placement Calculus AB Course Application

Prerequisites: Minimum grade of B in Precalculus, recommendation of Precalculus teacher, and approval of Math Placement Committee

Acceptance Criteria: The following areas will be considered in determining acceptance to Advanced Placement Calculus AB: Precalculus average, homework average, ACT Math score, attendance, and the completion of an essay addressing why the student wants to enroll in the class.

Course Description: AP Calculus follows the College Board curriculum to develop the student's understanding of the concepts of calculus (functions, graphs, limits, derivatives, and integrals) and provides experiences with its methods and applications. The course encourages the geometric, numerical, analytical, and verbal expressions of concepts, results, and problems. Appropriate technology, from manipulatives to calculators and application software, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment. At the completion of this course, students will be required to take the Advanced Placement Exam.

Content Modification And Learning Environment: By its nature, AP Calculus is already modified for the high achieving and gifted student in many ways. The material will be harder, covered in more detail, and evaluated more thoroughly than compared to a class that is not weighted/advanced at Tuscola.

Expectations: If a student is accepted into AP Calculus, there will be several expectations. **By returning this signed application for AP Calculus, the student and parents agree that meeting the expectations listed below will be a priority:**

1. Students will be expected to do every homework assignment, study for quizzes and tests, and be an active participant in class.
2. Students will be expected to study and review on a regular basis to master the material.
3. Students will be expected to learn the material in greater detail than in non-AP math classes.
4. Students will be expected to work at a level and pace similar to a one-semester to two-semester college course.
5. Students will be expected to do all of the work assigned at the highest level possible.
6. Students will be expected to take advantage of extra help sessions that will be available if needed for success in the class.
7. Students will be expected to be in class as much as is reasonably possible.

The application approval process includes a ranking based on many factors. One of those factors in the process is the completion of a brief essay that addresses why you want to take this course. The essay will be awarded points based on content, construction, and originality. Your work should be easy to read and to follow and should not be thrown together at the final minute. The essay should be written neatly and orderly, just like you would do your work for this class next year should you be accepted.

Your essay should start here and continue to the back of this page. Be sure to begin with a title. Do not attach any extra sheets.