

# THS AP Academy Proposal

February 2011

# Current AP Setting at THS

- AP courses are not required at this time (21 offered, 15 typically make)
- Of the students that take AP classes, most do not take the AP tests
- PSAT is given to all tenth grade students (2010 is the first time this has been done)
- Ninth and Eleventh graders may take PSAT if they pay for it – but not required

# Current AP Setting at THS

## Pros

- AP classes are small and manageable
- Because of the low number of classes, teachers can also teach classes other than AP
- Students/Parents self select for the AP classes

## Cons

- Low number of students involved
- Only one National Merit Semifinalist in past four years
- Many students who should be in AP courses chose not to take them
- Senior year is not rigorous for many of our students

# AP Academy

- Students will be tested utilizing the PSAT and reports will be created from the AP Potential Program to determine students that should be in the Academy
- Students whose scores reflect ability will be placed in the AP Academy – Parents will be informed
- Students must take AP classes for those areas which they show the potential to be successful
- No more than one AP class per semester will be required for students within the academy
- All AP classes will be open to students regardless of their scores on the PSAT

# AP Academy

## Pros

- More students in AP classes
- More rigorous curriculum for students
- Potential for more National Merit Semifinalists
- Higher ACT scores with more scholarship potential for students

## Cons

- Students/Parents may not want to take the courses
- Teachers will need to offer more support for students who have never taken rigorous classes before
- Testing costs

# AP Potential

AP Potential is a free, Web-based tool that allows schools to generate rosters of students who are likely to score a 3 or better on a given AP<sup>®</sup> Exam. Based on research that shows strong correlations between PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> scores and AP Exam results, AP Potential is designed to help you increase access to AP and to ensure that no student who has the chance of succeeding in AP is overlooked.

# Data from 2010 PSAT/AP Potential Assessment

Subject	2011 Potential AP Students	2010 AP Students	
		Students taking AP Class	Exam Takers
Art History	110	12	12
Biology	38	11	9
Calculus AB	26	35	25
Chemistry	26	13	7
English Language	79	50	29
English Literature	52	43	27
Environmental Science	38	0	0
European History	90	0	0
Macroeconomics	22	0	0
Microeconomics	38	0	0
Music Theory	137	0	0
Physics B	9	17	4
Psychology	90	11	5
Statistics	22	0	0
U.S. Government & Politics	28	44	11
U.S. History	55	30	21
World History	87	46	29

# What we are requesting

- Create AP Academy
- Funding to test all Freshman in Pre-AP courses and all Sophomores using the PSAT (current budget covers only sophomore testing)
- Require all students who qualify to enroll in the Academy and take AP courses
- Training for teachers as the number required for AP courses expands
- Require all students to complete the AP Test for AP courses in order to receive credit