



**South Pointe High
School**

**Advanced Studies
Programs**



**Early College
(Dual Credit)**

Message From Dr. Al Leonard:

As a part of the *High Schools That Work Network* (HSTW) network, South Pointe has teamed with other high schools around the state that work toward implementing those philosophies and practices that are designed to raise student achievement and graduation rates. As a part of the network, a major point of emphasis for South Pointe has been encouraging each student to take the most challenging courses that he or she is able to successfully complete.

South Pointe is fortunate to be able to offer numerous courses that meet the most rigorous standards and are recognized by colleges and universities around the country as being notably challenging. Those course offerings include those at the honors level and particularly those that are dual credit college level courses, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.

The College Board, an organization that provides information to students desirous of attending colleges, states that taking such courses is an indication to prospective universities that students are more likely to be prepared for college-level work and are willing to challenge themselves academically. In addition, these courses have a higher weighting that typically increases a student's grade point average (GPA), a factor universities consider when reviewing applications and that may also make the student eligible for academic scholarships.

Take time with your child to learn more about these courses and view them in terms of his or her goals for life after graduation. It will be time well spent that may pay dividends in the near future!

SPHS Advanced Studies website
sphsadvancedstudies.weebly.com

AP Website:

apcentral.collegeboard.com

IB Website:

www.ibo.org

For more information, please contact:

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Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement courses provide students with an opportunity to engage in challenging and thought-provoking courses around a designated area of interest or strength for the student. The AP coursework is not designed to be a connected or integrated program of study. AP courses allow students to delve deeply into the content and knowledge of a particular course.

Assessment: Student mastery of content is measured by both multiple choice and essay questions (free response questions). All AP courses emphasize strong writing and communication skills, as well as critical and analytical thinking skills within the discipline.

Advanced Placement Courses Offered:

- AP Language and Composition (11th grade course; A/B day with AP US History)
- AP Literature and Composition (12th grade course; A/B day with AP European History)
- AP US History (11th grade course; A/B day)
- AP European History (12th grade course; A/B day)
- AP American Government and Politics
- AP Psychology
- AP Calculus AB or BC (12th grade; one semester)
- AP Statistics (one semester)
- AP Biology (two-semester course)
- AP Chemistry (two-semester course)
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Art

AP English and History courses are offered on an A/B day schedule. Other courses are offered as a semester course or a year-long, two-semester course. Enrollment in AP courses does require completion of prerequisite courses. It is an expectation that the subject area in which the student chooses to enroll is one of strength. All AP examinations are administered at the completion of the course in the spring.

International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate Program is an international **program** that offers rigorous coursework across six major subjects. Students may elect to pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma by taking all six courses or simply take a pair or pairs of select IB courses. The IB program is a holistic approach of mastery, achieved through challenging coursework and additional opportunities such as the Theory of Knowledge course, the Extended Essay, and CAS (Creativity, Activity, and Service) learning components. The program recognizes that students have strengths and weaknesses within all six subjects. Courses are taught through international perspectives and the IB recognized Approaches to Teaching and Learning, along with developing in students the Learner Profile characteristics which encourage both academic and personal growth.

Assessment: Student mastery of content is measured by a variety of assessments including paper/pencil examinations, oral presentations, projects, essays, and lab work. All IB courses emphasize strong writing and communication skills, critical and analytical thinking skills, and global perspectives.

International Baccalaureate Courses Offered:

- Language A: Literature (paired with History)
- US History and History of the Americas
- Math Studies or Math SL (paired with science)
- Biology or Chemistry
- Spanish or Spanish ab initio (paired with IB elective from below)
- Psychology
- Theatre

IB courses are two-year courses (junior and senior year) offered on an A/B day schedule. Prerequisites must be met to enroll in IB courses. All IB Examinations are administered in the spring of the student's senior year (completion of the two year course). Students are able to choose assessment level (higher or standard) for many of the courses based upon individual strengths and weaknesses.

Early College/Dual Credit

Early College/Dual Credit courses provide opportunities for high school students to complete college-level courses while still enrolled in high school. Students can earn high school and college credit. All courses have credit articulation agreements with public universities and technical colleges in South Carolina. Some courses are "college transfer" courses to a 4-year university, while others are transferable within technical college programs. Students should also be aware that they are starting a college transcript when enrolled in these courses.

Students must be at least 16 years or older and demonstrate college readiness on a required entrance test (ex. COMPASS, SAT, or ACT) to enroll in an Early College/Dual Credit course.

Assessment: Student mastery of content is measured by the assessments outlined and identified by the college's course syllabus. The course is taught and assessed as it would be on the college campus.

Early College Courses Offered on High School Campus:

- English 101
- English 102
- Teacher Cadet
- Criminal Justice 101
- Psychology 101

Project Lead the Way (Engineering) Courses:

- Intro to Engineering Design
- Principles of Engineering
- Digital Electronics