

# **DUSD Secondary Scholar Pathways:**

Advanced Placement, International  
Baccalaureate, and Dual Enrollment  
Opportunities



## Board Goal #12

Downey Unified will actively **expand** on the six “Areas of Focus” identified by our Enrollment Growth Committee: Career Technical Education, AVID, **Rigorous Pathways (AP, IB, GATE)**, Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA), Dual Language Immersion, and personalized technology integration. In addition, we recognize the vital role of athletics in fostering student engagement, leadership, and well-being. By directing our efforts toward these areas including athletics, we are committed to cultivating a passion for learning, supporting well-rounded student development, and empowering every student to achieve academic excellence and reach their fullest potential, in an effort to sustain our enrollment.



## ***Benefits of creating rigorous pathways***

- **Increases academic opportunities for our students**

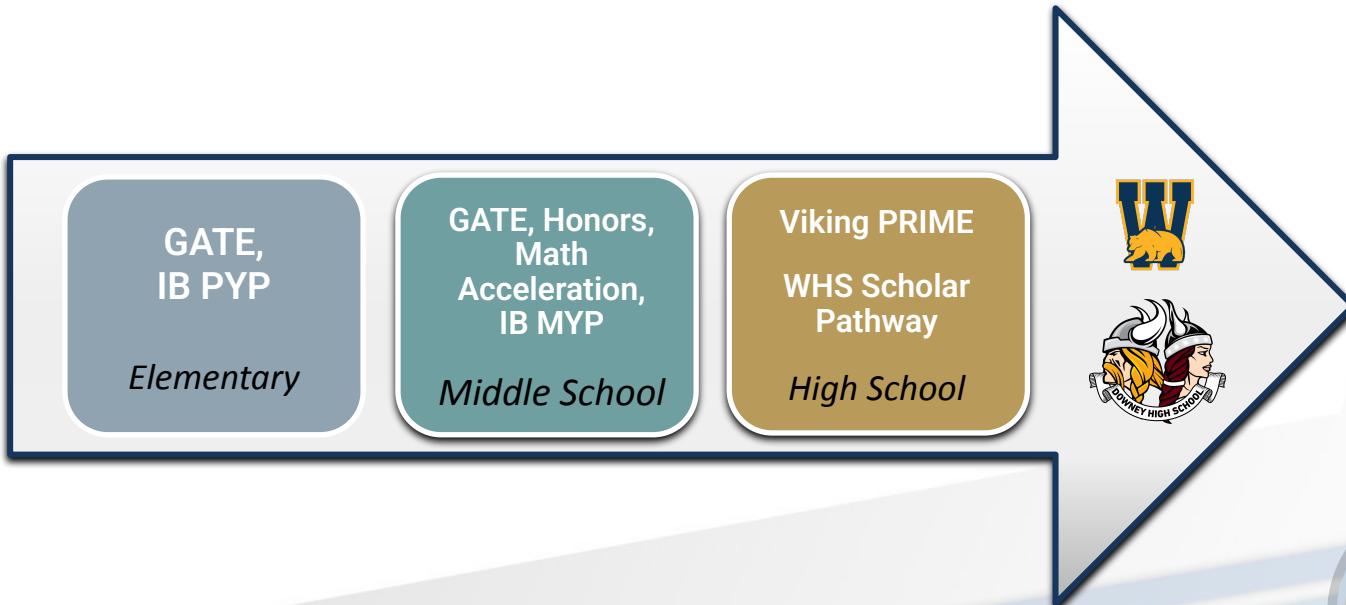
- **Attracts and retains our students**

- **Increases acceptance rates to Top Tier Universities**



# Downey Unified School District

## *Rigorous Pathway Continuum*



# Elementary School

## **Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)**

- 167 students 4th and 5th Graders

### **What is a GATE Student?**

- A child with advanced abilities or potential, often learning faster, having a larger vocabulary, intense curiosity, and complex thinking

### **Students are identified through testing and performance criteria.**

- CAASPP Scores
- Reasoning Test - SAGES-2
- Classroom Evidence

### **What does our program include?**

- Designed to meet the unique academic and social-emotional needs of students identified for exceptional abilities in areas such as academics, creativity, or leadership.
- Differentiated instruction and enriched learning opportunities beyond the standard curriculum





## IB Primary Years Programme (PYP)

- Authorized as a IB World School in June 2022
- 778 students
- The Primary Years Programme is an inquiry-based, interdisciplinary curriculum framework that builds conceptual understanding. Students develop international mindedness and student agency. Our classrooms take a student-centered approach to learning and reflecting to develop knowledge, conceptual understanding, skills and attributes of the IB learner profile to make a difference in our students lives, their communities, and beyond.

# Middle School

## Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

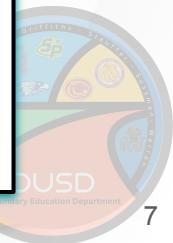
- 6-8th grades, 400 students
- The GATE program provides access to the most rigorous courses with highly qualified teachers, as well as provide educational experiences that expose students to local university programs and varied resources

## Math Acceleration (Math 6/7, Math 7/8, Honors Algebra 1)

- Implementation began 2025-2026 school year
- Currently 866 students enrolled in Accelerated Math

## Honors ELA 7 and 8

- Implementation will begin in the 2026-2027 school year
- Estimating 200 students per site





## IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)

- IB MYP Authorization visit and notification December 2025
- 435 students in 6-8th grade
- The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) is a challenging academic framework for students that develops inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people by connecting classroom learning to the real world, fostering skills for managing complexity, and promoting international-mindedness through inquiry-based, interdisciplinary study.



***What do we currently have in place in high school?***

**Advanced Placement (AP)**

**Early College/Dual Enrollment**



# Advanced Placement

A College Board program offering college-level courses and exams for high school students to potentially earn college credit

- Different levels of distinction for passing AP tests

## **AP Scholar with Distinction**



- Pass 5 AP tests with a 3 or higher
- DHS = 81
- WHS = 36

## **AP with Honors**



- Pass 4 AP tests with a 3 or higher
- DHS = 50
- WHS = 33

## **AP Scholar**



- Pass 3 AP tests with a 3 or higher
- DHS = 127
- WHS = 121

# AP By The Numbers

## Downey High School

- 71 AP Sections
- 24 AP Courses
- 973 Students taking AP Classes
- 77% passage rate



## Warren High School

- 85 AP Sections
- 27 AP Courses
- 1,266 Students taking AP Classes
- 63% passage rate



## High School - Viking Prime and WHS Scholar Pathway

VIKING PRIME IS A CAPSTONE-BASED PATHWAY THAT BUILDS RESEARCH, WRITING, PRESENTATION, AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WHILE STUDENTS THRIVE IN THE VIKE VIBE.

- ENROLL IN OUR HIGH-PERFORMING AP COURSES
- EARN AN AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA, SEAL OF BILITERACY, CUSTOM GRADUATION REGALIA & MORE!
- RECEIVE COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE CONSULTING SERVICES ON CAMPUS

VIKES ARE MAKING THEIR MARK AT TOP UNIVERSITIES!

A PATHWAY BUILT FOR SCHOLARS READY TO EXCEL.  
APPLY TODAY...

**WARREN**  
**SCHOLAR PATHWAY**

**Enroll in over 50 available  
Advanced Placement and Dual  
Enrollment Course Offerings**

**Receive dedicated college essay  
writing, scholarship, and  
application support**

**Earn an AP Capstone Diploma  
and custom graduation regalia**

**A distinguished pathway  
reserved for our premiere  
scholars who want more**

# What is the AP Capstone Diploma?

## 4 AP CLASSES

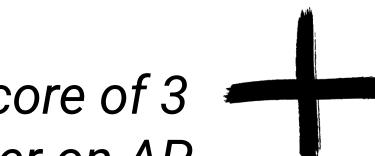
*Earn score of 3 or higher on AP Exams*

## AP SEMINAR

*Earn score of 3 or higher on AP Exam*

## AP RESEARCH

*Earn score of 3 or higher on AP Exam*



## AP CAPSTONE



# Why the AP Capstone Diploma?

It's more than just extra AP classes – ***it's a program that shows colleges that students are ready for big challenges.***

- Increases acceptance rates to Top Tier Universities
- AP Seminar → Learn how to research, think critically, and present your ideas on real-world topics.
- AP Research → Choose a topic you care about and design your own year-long project.
- Earned by the end of 11th grade year

# DUSD Viking Prime and WHS Scholar Pathway Schedule

## 9th Grade

Honors Math  
AP Human Geography  
Honors English 9  
Language Other Than English  
Honors Biology  
VAPA/CTE/Dual / ELECTIVE  
PE/Athletics

## 10th Grade

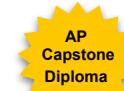
Honors Math  
AP European History  
AP Seminar  
Language Other Than English  
Honors or AP Science  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/ ELECTIVE  
PE/Athletics

## 11th Grade

Honors/AP Math  
AP US History  
AP English Language  
AP Research  
Language Other Than English  
AP Physics/AP Chem/  
AP Bio  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/  
ELECTIVE

## 12th Grade

AP Calculus AB, BC, Stats  
AP Government  
AP Economics  
AP English Literature  
AP Language Other Than English  
4th Year Science of Choice  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/ ELECTIVE



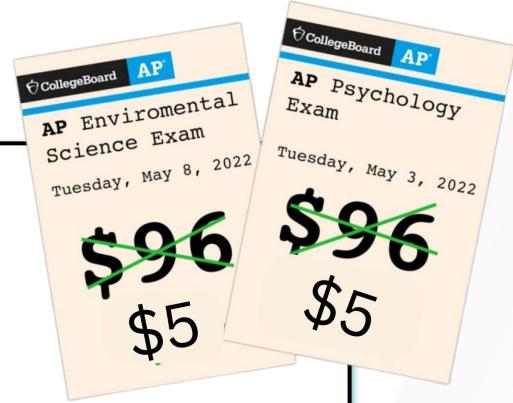
# Costs of AP Exams

Cost per test = \$96.00

Most of our students pay only \$5.00 per test

- Funded in our LCAP

Tests administered last year = 2,239





## **AP Cost approximate yearly costs includes:**

- **Training**
- **AP Coordinator release time**
- **Approximately \$50,000 per year**

***What do we currently have in place in high school?***

**Advanced Placement (AP)**

**Early College/Dual Enrollment**



# What is Early College?

- A structured program where high school students earn both a high school diploma and significant college credit, often leading to an associate degree or substantial transferable credits, by taking college-level courses while still in high school, with strong support systems to help them succeed.
- It's a specialized type of Dual Enrollment providing academic and social guidance
- Prescribed set of 12 general education courses
- Students have the opportunity to take Cerritos College classes at their high school and complete approximately 43.5 units transferable to a CSU and/or UC while earning their high school diploma simultaneously.
- Free tuition and books
- Students can save up to two years worth of the cost of college
  - \$28,000 UC
  - \$11,600 CSU



# Early College by the Numbers

## Downey High School



- 18 Sections
- 180 Students enrolled in Early College
- 240 Students will be enrolled next year

## Warren High School



- 18 Sections
- 180 Students enrolled in Early College
- 240 Students will be enrolled next year

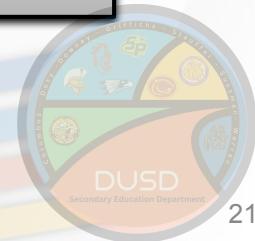
# SAMPLE EARLY COLLEGE SCHEDULE

9TH	
READ 101	MUS 104B
English 9 Math I Biology Spanish I Athletics	

10TH	
COMM 100	CS 101
English 10 Math II World History Spanish II Athletics	

11TH	
ENG C1000 Hist 103	SOC 101 ANTH 115L
Math III Chemistry Spanish III Athletics CTE or Elective	

12TH	
ENG C1001 MATH C1000	ANTH 115 SOC CL210
Economics/Government Health/Elective AP Spanish Athletics CTE or Elective	



# What is the Dual Enrollment ?

- Dual enrollment allows high school students to take college-level courses, earning both high school and college credits simultaneously, often at no cost, providing a head start on their degree, saving money, and easing the transition to higher education by exploring subjects and building college readiness skills
- Dual Enrollment
  - *A la carte* courses
  - Can take up to 12 courses
  - Courses within their school day



# Dual Enrollment by the Numbers

## Downey High School

- 13 Sections
- 352 Students enrolled in a Dual Enrollment Course



## Warren High School

- 46 Sections
- 600+ Students enrolled in a Dual Enrollment Course





## Early College/Dual Enrollment approximate yearly costs includes:

- Dual Enrollment counselor
- Dual Enrollment coordinator release time
- Approximately \$200,000 per year
- Subsidized by the State
- **Cost saving of 16 FTE = \$2,400,000**

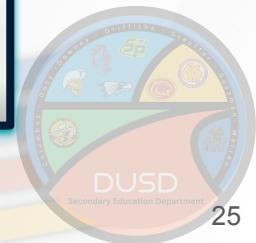


## *Current rigorous pathways*

**Advanced Placement (AP)**

**Early College/Dual Enrollment**

**IB Diploma Programme**



# *Components of the High School IB Diploma Programme*



# IB Diploma Programme

IB Courses begin in 11th grade

AP and Honors courses taken in 9th and 10th grade

Passage of 6 IB courses and exams in 11th and  
12th grade

Additional Requirements: Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS),  
Extended Essay (EE), Theory of Knowledge Course (TOK)

Must be authorized to offer courses/Diploma Programme



# Sample Course of Study:

## IB Diploma Programme

### 9th Grade

Honors Geometry  
AP Human Geography  
Honors English  
AP Language/Spanish 2  
Honors Biology  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/ ELECTIVE  
PE/Athletics

### 10th Grade

Honors Algebra 2  
AP European History  
AP Seminar  
AP Language/Spanish 3  
Honors Chem/AP Biology  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/ ELECTIVE  
PE/Athletics

### 11th Grade

Math IB SL 1  
History of Americas HL1  
English IB HL1  
Biology IB HL1  
IB Art/Music SL  
LOTE HL 1  
Theory of Knowledge IB  
Economics (Summer School)

### 12th Grade

Math IB SL 2  
History of Americas IB HL2  
English IB HL2  
Biology IB HL2  
Environmental Systems IB SL  
LOTE HL2



Extended Essay  
CAS Project



# What we learned from High School IB Diploma

Regular meetings with our IB consultant

- Information on training and costs

Meeting with West Covina Unified School District

- Edgewood IB School - wall to wall
- IB Enrollment: approximately 850 students.
- Graduation outcomes: 20–30 students earn the IB DP diploma annually.



Visited Corona-Norco Centennial High School - IB pathway

- IB is a pathway
- IB enrollment: 110 students
- Graduation outcomes: 38 students could qualify for an IB DP



Meeting with Pacific Palisades Charter High School



- IB candidate school - will begin next year

# Considerations to implement the IB Diploma Programme



Cost



Timeline



## IB Cost includes:

- **Training**
- **Candidacy Fee**
- **Application Fee**
- **IB Coordinator**
- **Approximately \$400,000 per year**





2025-2026 IB students are 8th graders

- Spring 2026
  - a. Apply for Candidacy
  - b. The principal must attend/register for DP Head of School training prior to applying for candidacy
  - c. A decision on candidacy from IB will be announced
  - d. Begin teacher training
  - e. 20-30 teachers will begin the initial training



2026-2027 IB students are 9th graders (Hire/Train Coordinator, Train teachers)

- Continue Teacher training through Nov. 2027



2027-2028

- **Jan./Feb. 2028 Apply for Authorization**
- May 2028 Verification Visit
- July 2028 Authorization report from IB



2028-2029 DP 11th graders



2029-2030 DP 12th graders



# **AP Capstone Diploma and IB Diploma Programme at a Glance**



# Rigorous Pathway Sample Course of Study:

## AP Capstone/IB Diploma Programme

### 9th Grade

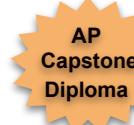
Honors Geometry  
AP Human Geography  
Honors English  
AP Language/Spanish 2  
Honors Biology  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/ ELECTIVE  
PE/Athletics

### 10th Grade

Honors Algebra 2  
AP European History  
AP Seminar  
AP Language/Spanish 3  
Honors Chem/AP Biology  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/ ELECTIVE  
PE/Athletics

## AP Capstone 11th Grade

AP Calculus AB  
AP US History  
AP English Language  
AP Research  
AP Physics/AP Chem/AP Bio  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/ ELECTIVE



### 12th Grade

AP Calculus BC,Stats  
AP Government  
AP Economics  
AP English Literature  
4th Year Science of Choice  
AP Psychology  
VAPA/CTE/DUAL/ELECTIVE

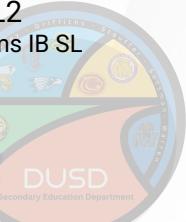
## IB Diploma Programme 11th Grade

Math IB SL 1  
History of Americas HL1  
English IB HL1  
Biology IB HL1  
IB Art/Music SL  
LOTE HL 1  
Theory of Knowledge IB  
Economics (Summer School)

Extended  
Essay  
CAS  
Project

### 12th Grade

Math IB SL 2  
History of Americas IB HL2  
English IB HL2  
Biology IB HL2  
Environmental Systems IB SL  
LOTE HL2



# Program Implications

## Advanced Placement

- Universities view as highest tier of rigor
- One time online training
  - Additional training if test changes
- Approximately 60 teachers trained
- No authorization or application
- Long history of AP program
- Diploma Program or a la carte
- Cost approximately \$50,000 per year
- Master Schedule Implications
  - Multiple course offerings
  - 51 different offerings

## Early College/Dual Enrollment

- Universities view as highest tier of rigor
- Teachers must have a master degree in the course they are teaching
- Mix of Cerritos College and DUSD Teachers
- No authorization or application
- Growing program subsidized by the state
- Structured Program or a la carte
- Subsidized by the state cost savings of 16 FTEs, \$2.4 million
- Cost approximately \$200,000
- Master Schedule Implications
  - Students need room in their schedule to be able to take a DE course

## International Baccalaureate

- Universities view as highest tier of rigor
- Application for initial authorization
- Training is ongoing  
20-30 teachers will need to be trained
- Reauthorization every 3 years
- Need teacher buy-in
- Diploma Program or a la carte
- Cost approximately \$400,000 per year
- Master Schedule Implications
  - IB and AP courses are often double rostered
  - Some IB only classes can run at 10-15 students

## ***Board Direction***



## **Next Steps for Elementary**



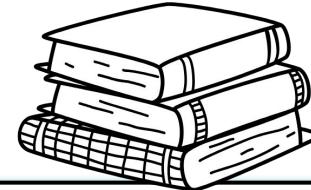
### **IB PYP**

- *Continue to train and support teachers for reauthorization in 2026-2027*

### **GATE**

- *Continue training teachers on how to support students within the school day*
- *Focus on the social emotional needs of our GATE students*

# Next Steps for Middle School



## IB MYP

- *Implementation of the Community Project*
- *Implementation of the interdisciplinary units*
- *Continue to train and support teachers for reauthorization*

## GATE

- *Continue training teachers on how to support students within the school day*
- *Schedule students in Accelerated Math and ELA Honors courses*

## **Next Steps for High School**



- *Promote and market Viking Prime and WHS Scholar Pathways*
- *Continue to pursue alternative bell schedule at Downey High School to facilitate more dual enrollment*

# ***Questions***

