



YORKTOWN PTA MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 8, 2024

Meeting: 7:30pm

1. **Welcome - welcome from PTA president**
2. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes -**
 - Motion to approve minutes - minutes approved.
3. **Guest Speakers**
 - **Johanna Boyers, Director of Counseling -**
 - Brief overview of course selection process. 1/16 - will have an academic planning night where will share in more detail. See [YHS website for presentations](#).
 - Overview of standard vs. advanced diploma and overall graduation requirements. Standard is 22 credits, Advanced is 26 credits. Biggest difference is that Standard has no language requirement. Advanced requires 3 years of language. Grad requirements include 2 years Health and PE, Econ and Personal finance - fulfills virtual requirement. Have to have sequential elective. Need at least one fine art and/or CTE. Need 5 verified credits, earned by passing an SOL at the end of a HS course.
 - Both diplomas prepare students for college. The diploma type is not known by the colleges when a student applies. Diploma type not official until the final transcript after graduation
 - Grade level vs. intensified course - grade level course has most of the work done in the classroom. Advanced requires more work outside the classroom and pace is faster - more reading expected and more independence required.
 - Overview of English and Social Studies - Grade 9, English and History done as a block. Next year, will offer English 10, English 10 intensified, or 10th graders can take AP Seminar: Eng 10.
 - If had world geography in middle school, can choose to not take history in 10th. 11th grade, US history or AP; 12th grade is US government or AP US government.
 - Program of studies has a search function this year to facilitate looking up courses online. Can see prerequisites there.
 - Have to have at least 15 students sign up for a course in order to run it.
 - Econ and personal finance required. There is an AP version. But also a fully virtual version.
 - Students should talk to current math teacher to get recommendations. Math coach will be at academic planning night next week. Students do have to have a "c" to move on to next level but anecdotally students tend to do better if they have a B or better.
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- Science: For 9th graders, can do environmental science if the student is not ready for biology. Students may not take earth science until after they completed bio. Can't take environmental science after they have taken bio. But can do AP Environmental Science down the road after bio. But regular environmental science is for students not ready for biology. The AP sciences classes are double blocked and meet every day.
- Most world language go through level 5
- Health and PE required for the first 2 years. Do offer Health and PE 2 for 10th grades combined with drivers ed, but it is the classroom portion only. Have to do "behind the wheel" privately. Or can do Health and PE for whole year or drivers ed as a semester class. Starting this summer, summer Health and PE will ONLY be offered through APS. Can't do a third party vendor. It is a hybrid class. More info will come out in March.
- Course request form will come home on **Jan 16** - color coded by grades. Pay close attention to the legend. CRFs are due back by **Feb 9**
- **Alesandra (Alie) Bakaj, AP Coordinator, Instructional Lead Teacher**
 - Taking an AP class is in preparation for students wanting to pursue academics beyond high school. Want to have students enroll in challenging coursework that prepares them for work beyond high school.
 - End of year AP courses, can get college credits for score of 3 or higher.
 - APs have favorable impact on admissions decisions.
 - Have just added two additional AP options - AP seminar and AP African American studies. Next year, will have AP research for students who have completed seminar. Capstone looks at successful completion of seminar and research + 3 or better on end of course exams = can earn capstone certificate. If students take an additional 4 AP courses and get 3 or better on exams, can earn capstone diploma. This gives favorable recognition for college admissions.
 - Have a lot of students that take a lot of APs over hs. Capstone focuses on critical thinking skills without having to piecemeal AP coursework. Capstone requires 6 AP classes, including seminar and research to earn the diploma. Always looking to broaden student enrollment.
 - AP seminar - first in series of capstone courses. Course is about academic reading and writing. Read peer reviewed journals. Can enroll for Eng. 10 requirement. Need to be prepared to spend the time and energy on the work that the course requires. A lot of independent research and initiative that goes into it. 11th graders can also take AP Seminar. There is a group project and they are beholden to college



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board's deadlines - all work due by April 30. Students must be present at school to complete all performance tasks and the exam.

- Once students complete seminar, they move onto research. They are writing a research paper of about 5000 words and doing an oral defense at end of year. To do AP Research, must pass seminar at 3 or higher.
- Some considerations: 1. Time that they have to commit to the classes themselves. Many AP classes require an hour per day of work outside of class. 2. Need to consider after school commitments. Want students to be well rounded and balanced. 3. Also consider capacity and motivation - what do they need to get out of the class and where do they want to put their energy? 4. Do offer students additional support. Have learning center set up in the library, especially during lunch. Have additional course called consult for AP - meant to support students as they start their AP journey. Or could be for kids who are taking a lot of APs and need more time.
- Students will learn more about AP offerings on 1/17, 1/19, 1/24, 1/26. Electives fair on 1/19
- Families - academic information night 1/17 in the auditorium.
- Coffee with the coordinator at 8:45 am on 1/25 in the cafeteria.

Q: Is it ok for students to talk to counselors before they submit CRF rather than wait? A: Yes, look on canvas to see if they have scheduling options up.

Q: Can students also come to planning night? A: yes!

Q: How can students apply to do independent study? A: Reach out to Eileen Wagner.

Eileen.Wagner@apsva.us

4. Dr. Clark's Update

- Thanks to Allie and Johanna for presenting tonight! They are doing great work planning for next year.
- Thanks to PTA for delicious thank you breakfast for staff the Wednesday before break.
- Wrapping up second quarter in 3 weeks. Last day is 1/26. Offer teachers who are doing midterms a schedule to organize so students aren't overloaded. 1/25 - periods 3 and 4. Fri. 1/26 make up exams. Monday 1/29 is teacher grading day.
- Wed. 2/7 is an early release day. March 5 no school for Super Tuesday.
- Students completing science and social studies evaluation surveys this week
- 1/30 - will do school climate conditions and working survey.
- Feb - will do Your Voice Matters survey. Do it every two years. Student, staff and family perceptions of school climate, student well being. Can access the Your Voice Matters survey results on website - done via Panorama.
- Sports - in middle of winter sports season.
- Wrestling match on Wed. after school.



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- Basketball double header on Thurs - hosting WL at YHS.
- As look toward spring sports, info is available on yorktownsports.org. TeamApp is a way to follow particular sports. Physicals required to try out. Physical form submission managed online now.
- Weekly newsletter via Parentsquare. Share info about things that happen at school - whenever there is police presence or ambulance at school. Limited in details they can share to protect student privacy but do want to inform community to the best of their ability.
- Planning process underway - looking to the future. Excited about all courses, electives, capstone program. Plug for things like Career Center as a good option. Great time to talk about the future with students - even narrowing down what you don't want to do.

Q: Are there aggregate data compiled around emergencies and police presence at YHS? I really appreciate the emails we get when things happen - just unsure if the incidents are the same, less, more compared to last year or other years? A: Last year, APS made a decision to be more communicative about things that are happening in the school. So don't always have good comparison data from the past. But for example, presence of an ambulance can be anything from a simple injury in PE to seizures - when meds are administered, medical personnel have to come. APS does maintain discipline data on the APS website and disaggregated by racial and ethnic groups on the equity dashboard.

Q: Do they track substance abuse data? A: If substance is found at school or student under the influence, that data is maintained and reported to the state. Some limitations on what is shared. APS does have data by infraction - VA Dept. of Education (school quality profiles) has basic discipline data disaggregated by infraction code.

5. **Treasurer's Update** - Michelle could not be here tonight. Will have updated report at next meeting but in summary, are on track.

6. **Committee Updates and other PTA Items**

- Vote PTA name change to PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) - show of hands to approve name change - approved. Students would be allowed to join for free. Can join meetings and give input on agenda items.
- Science Fair - January 27th - PTA hosts breakfast for volunteer judges.
- Looking ahead to February - will need a 3 person search committee to help seek candidates for PTA Board Vacancies for the 2024-2025 school year - have a handful of people rolling off the board. Also have people rolling off our committees. Cici Shultz will roll off of swag committee so will need someone to run that committee. Would love to hand it over by May. If you are interested in taking over that role, contact cicischultz@gmail.com. Jill Gasper is taking over as volunteer coordinator and can also contact Jill.



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- Spring Dance - March 9th
- Volunteer hours can be done at Longbranch Elementary School Art fair.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549A8A72FAAFA7-46580584-long#/>
- Cloe Chin - ACTL rep - update on key recommendations that have been presented to us last meeting. English Language Arts advisory committee - would like to see APS hire 3 district level writing coaches to provide teachers will professional learning and support. One of the things that drove us to make the recommendation is that APS has invested a lot of money in new writing curriculum and teachers need support to learn it. Literacy coaches have been really helpful and this is the same idea.
 - Math advisory committee - recommending 15 math interventionists. Primarily focusing on elementary schools.
 - Recommend that we fund a pre-k curriculum. The old one is no longer approved by VDOE. For now, recommending that APS invest in early childhood education classes. Also provide 50 hours of professional learning. One time cost of \$600,000. Adjust the pre-k application window to support full Virginia Preschool Initiative Enrollment. Families only have 10 days to accept or reject offer to enroll. Want to change this. If you want to weigh in on this, reach out to the school board. Can reach out to Cloe at [Cloe at Cloechin@hotmail.com](mailto:Cloechin@hotmail.com).

This will be Lori Schimenti's last year as SAT coordinator. So need a replacement for her.

7. Adjournment - 8:43pm