



South Pointe High School

Advanced Studies Programs



**Early College
(Dual Credit)**

Message From Dr. Williams:

As a STEAM school of choice, the goal of South Pointe High School is to prepare students for awareness, exposure, and college and career preparation in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. South Pointe's Design Process allows students to collaboratively assess, research, create, design, solve problems, and apply critical thinking and analytical concepts through our:

- 1) STEAM Immersion—the teaching and learning of critical thinking and analytical concepts through the engineering design process in our core and elective courses, and
- 2) STEAM Pathways—STEAM academic courses offered in sequence in a distinct STEAM field of study.

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. These course offerings include dual credit college level courses, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. 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 student 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!

**Please enroll in the SPS
Advanced Studies Canvas course**

AP Website:

apcentral.collegeboard.com

IB Website:

www.ibo.org

For more information, please contact:

**Laura Hall; Advanced Studies Coordinator
Email: Lhall@rhmail.org**

**South Pointe High School
801 Neely Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730**

**Phone: 803-980-2100
Fax: 803-980-2105**

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 English Language and Comp (11th grade course; A/B day with AP US History)
- AP English Literature and Comp (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 Macroeconomics (10th grade; A/B day)
- AP Psychology (one semester)
- AP Calculus AB or BC (12th grade; two-semester course)
- AP Statistics (two-semester course)
- AP Biology (two-semester course)
- AP Chemistry (two-semester course)
- AP Environmental Science (one semester)
- AP Art (two-semester course)
- AP Spanish or French (two-semester course)
- AP Seminar (one semester), AP Research (one semester)

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:

- IB English Literature (paired with History)
- IB History
- IB Math Applications & Interpretations (paired with science)
- IB Biology or IB Chemistry
- IB Spanish or IB Spanish ab initio (paired with IB elective from below)
- IB Digital Society
- IB Psychology
- IB 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.

Dual Credit

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 with courses on the district-approved list. Courses have credit articulation agreements with most 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 a 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.

Dual Credit Courses Offered on High School Campus:

- DC English Comp 1
- DC English Comp 2
- DC Teacher Cadets
- DC Intro to Criminal Justice
- DC Intro to Psychology

Project Lead the Way (Engineering) Courses:

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