



Advanced
Placement
(AP)
Program
Information
2026-27

Overview

- Advanced Placement courses provide enriched and challenging opportunities for capable students. AP courses are the result of a collaboration between secondary schools, colleges and universities.
- Advanced Placement courses in high school are overseen by The College Board - a not-for-profit organization that helps students prepare for a successful transition to post-secondary.
- AP courses are offered in a variety of ways: congregated classes, seminars, noon-hour or after-school tutorials. The courses are designed to enhance and enrich the regular Saskatchewan high school curriculum.
- Each AP course concludes with a university-level exam developed and scored by college and university faculty members as well as experienced AP teachers.

AP Courses Offered at Holy Cross

Biology

Calculus

Chemistry

English Literature & Composition

French Language & Culture

Studio Art

Why Take AP Courses?

- Advanced Placement courses provide opportunities for students to get a feel for the rigors of university-level studies in a supportive high school environment.
- Working with AP teachers, students develop and apply the skills, abilities, and content knowledge necessary for success in high school and beyond.
- Students can earn university credit while still in high school, getting a head start on their post-secondary education.

Planning for the AP Workload

- AP courses involve an in-depth coverage of the curriculum.
- AP course work and supplementary reading may extend after school hours, during summer and holiday breaks.
- *Due to the increased workload and class scheduling considerations, it is not recommended for students to take more than two AP courses.*
- Prior to making a commitment to AP programming, students should consider their involvement in extracurricular activities, and other out-of-school obligations that may affect their ability to manage the AP class workload.

Advanced Courses Lead to the Advanced Placement Opportunities in Grade 12

- Advanced Placement courses are recognized in Grade 12 on the Ministry Transcript.
- Advanced courses in Grade 10 and 11 prepare students for the opportunity to enroll in Grade 12 Advanced Placement courses, but they are not recognized on SK Ministry transcripts separate from regular credits.

- Student marks in AP courses should be comparable to what they would be receiving if they were in mainstream academic classes as the curriculum for these courses is the same as in mainstream courses.
- There should not be a negative impact on grade point average, scholarship opportunities or entrance requirements to post-secondary institutions.
- In Grade 12, students have the option to sign up for the College Board exam in their AP subject. If a student scores high enough on the College Board exam they may earn a university level course credit.

AP College Board Examinations

- The College Board administers the AP Program at the 30 level in each subject area. Teachers are provided with course guidelines and other supporting subject specific publications as well as a variety of workshops and courses. These supporting materials enhance the teaching of the Ministry of Education provincial curriculum.
- The AP exam that participating schools administer is developed each year by the College Board. AP examinations seek to assess how well a student has mastered the concepts and techniques of the subject. Typically, the AP College Board exams take place in May each year.

AP College Board examinations receive an overall grade on a five-point scale:

5 - Extremely well qualified

4 - Well qualified

3 - Qualified

2- Possibly qualified

1- Not qualified

The University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina both require a score of 4 or 5 on an AP exam for university credit. *More information on the transfer of AP scores to credits at Saskatchewan universities can be found on the university websites.*

All students receive copies of their scores. The school also receives copies of all student scores.

AP Exam Costs

- ▶ The cost of each AP College Board exam is currently \$135. As with other programs in the school, the payment takes place through MySchoolBucks. Financial assistance is available through the office for those for whom cost may be a barrier to participation.
- ▶ The AP exam cost for GSCS International Student Program students is approximately \$350 per AP exam.
- ▶ Timing for registration and payment for each AP College Board exam is dependent on when the AP course is scheduled in the academic year. AP teachers will communicate more information re: costs, payments and registration to students once in the AP program.

Other AP Costs

- Students in English Literature and Composition courses will be expected to purchase their own copies of novels and other related books. They will require these books to study for the AP final examination, and they should begin collecting literature and reference works in a personal library. Financial assistance is available to students for whom cost may be a barrier.
- Students in Art courses will be expected to purchase extra art supplies required to create their AP portfolios. They should also start their collection of personal art supplies for their future work. Students wishing to create the AP portfolio are also required to pay a fee as part of their student fees for the year.

Entry Points into the Program

- Each AP program has a unique grade level entry point (as outlined in subsequent slides on specific programs).
- It is possible for students showing potential/new to Holy Cross to join the AP program in subsequent years. Students new to Holy Cross High School can also apply to enter the program. There are criteria for admission to each AP program. Entrance to AP programming after the typical grade level starting point may be dependent on space available in the program.

- Students interested in specific AP programs are to register for the desired AP classes during registration time (typically near the beginning of March of every school year).
- Registration lists for each program are then vetted by teaching staff in each department. Application vetting processes may vary between departments.
- Communication regarding placement in each AP program will go out to successful and unsuccessful students following the online student registration process.
- Once accepted into an AP program, students do not need to reapply in subsequent years. Student rosters in AP programs will be reviewed each year.

AP Designation on SK Ministry of Education Transcripts

AP classes & preparatory grade 12 classes that may precede AP classes will appear as follows on formal transcripts:

- Biology Prep AP 30L
- Biology 30 (AP)
- Integral Calculus 30L
- Calculus 30 (AP)
- Chemistry Prep AP 30 L
- Chemistry 30 (AP)
- English Language Arts 30 (AP)
- Creative Writing 30L (AP)
- Visual Art 30 (AP)
- Studio Art 30

A Closer Look at AP Programs at Holy Cross

1) AP Biology Program

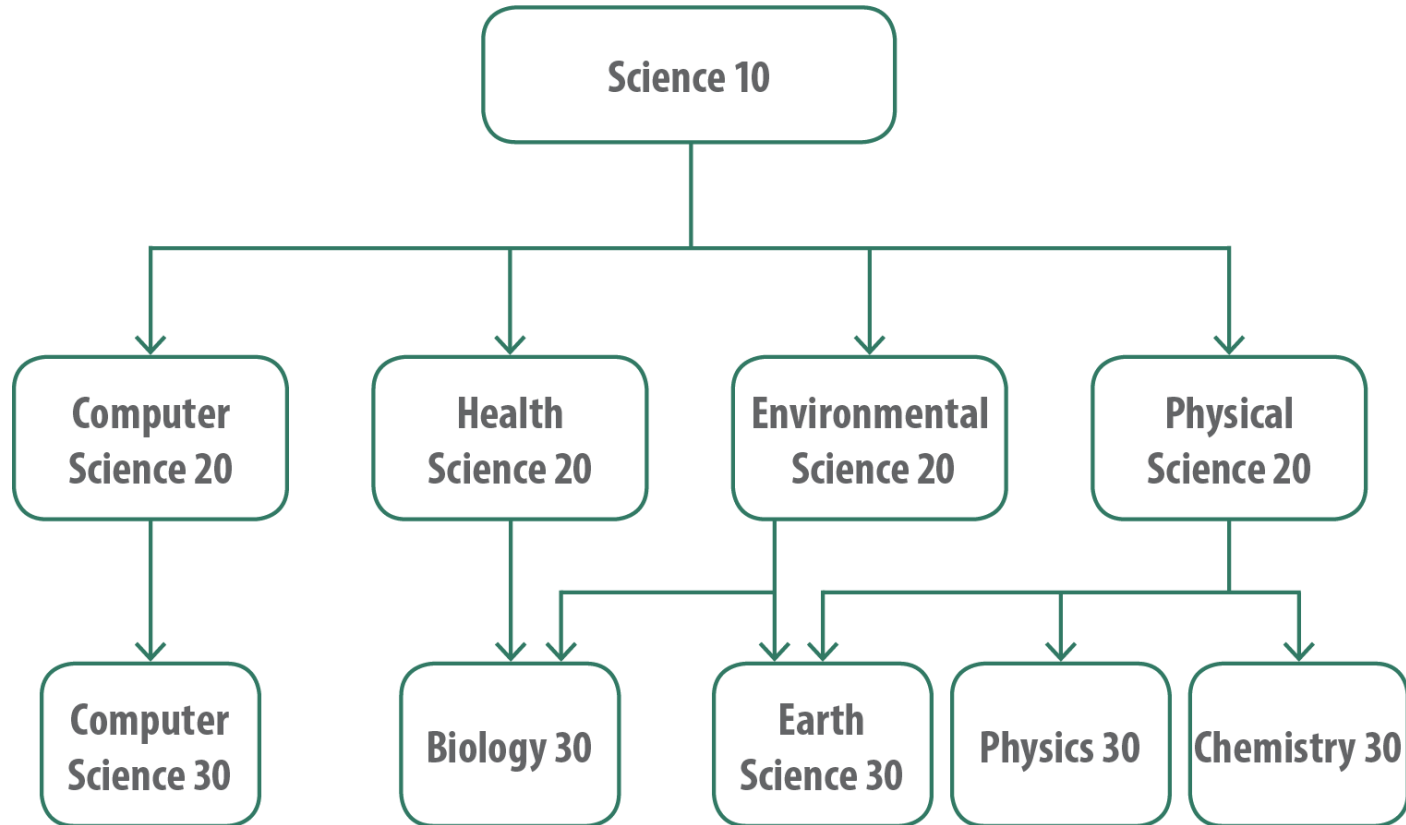
- Entry for the Advanced Biology program is grade 12. Students wishing to register for Grade 12 AP Biology should have an average of 85%+ in their grade 11 science prerequisite (Health Science 20 +/-or Environmental Science 20)
- Students wishing to be accepted into the Biology AP program should also be self-motivated students able to dedicate themselves to out of class study and preparation of the course material.
- Students will be expected to learn not simply by memorization but through content and concept application using the AP science practices. Inquiry laboratory experiences are a substantial component of the class, requiring students to apply their content knowledge to novel scientific scenarios.

Reasons to Take AP BIO

- ▶ You will be challenged to work and participate at a higher level and explore topics in more depth.
- ▶ There are several interesting, fun, hands-on lab experiences.
- ▶ You will get the opportunity for higher level thinking.
- ▶ You will learn skills that will prepare you for College like self-discipline, effective study techniques and time management.



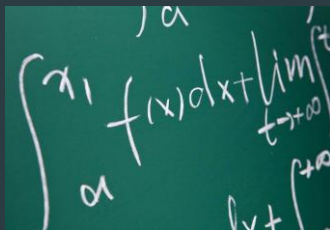
Science Pathways Framework



AP Biology Pathway

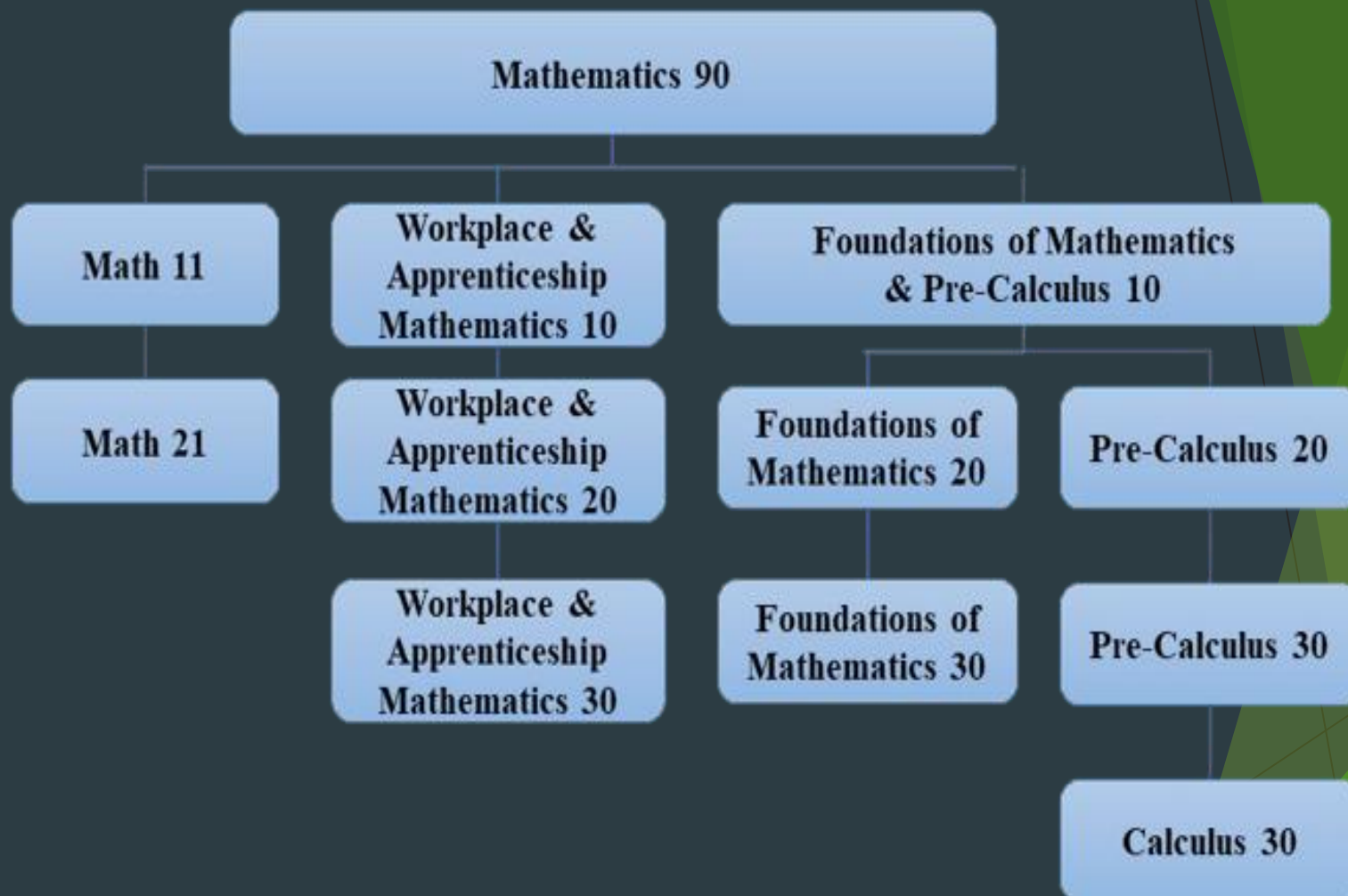
	Semester 1	Semester 2
Grade 11	Health Sci 20 +/- Enviro Sci 20 (Sem 1 or Sem 2) - 85%+ avg	
Grade 12 (AP entry point)	Biology 30P Yearlong (Day A)	
	Biology 30LP Yearlong (Day B) (AP Exam written in early May)	

2) AP Math Program



- Entry for the Advanced Math program is grade 12. Students wishing to register for Grade 12 AP Calculus should have an average of 85%+ in previous grade 11 math classes.
- In order to remain on track to fit AP Math classes into the Grade 12 year, interested students need to carefully select Math classes beginning in Grade 10 as per the AP Math Pathways chart found on a subsequent slide.
- Students wishing to be accepted into the Calculus AP program should also be highly motivated & passionate about learning, willing to work independently at a quicker pace, persistent in problem solving and prepared to take on greater responsibility.

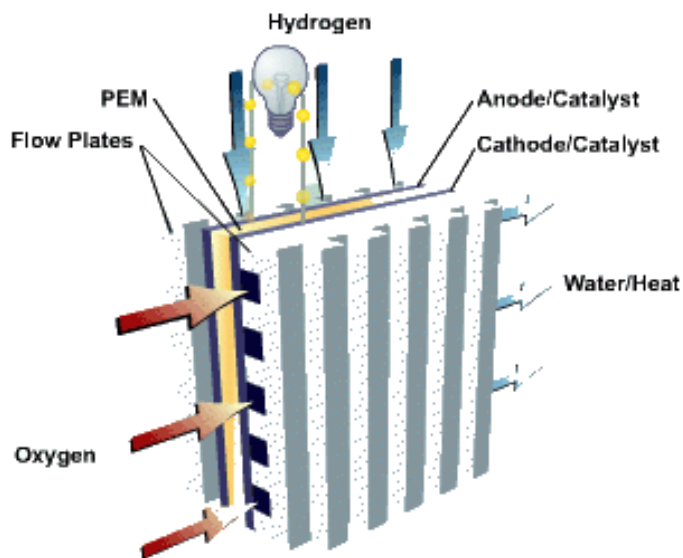
SK Ministry of Education Math Pathways



AP Calculus Math Pathway

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Grade 9	Math A90	Math B90
Grade 10	Foundations of Math and Pre-Calculus 10	Foundations of Math 20
Grade 11	Pre-Calculus 20	Pre-Calculus 30
Grade 12 AP Entry point	Calculus 30P Yearlong (Day A)	
	Integral Calculus 30LP Yearlong (Day B) (College Board Exam written)	

3) AP Chemistry Program

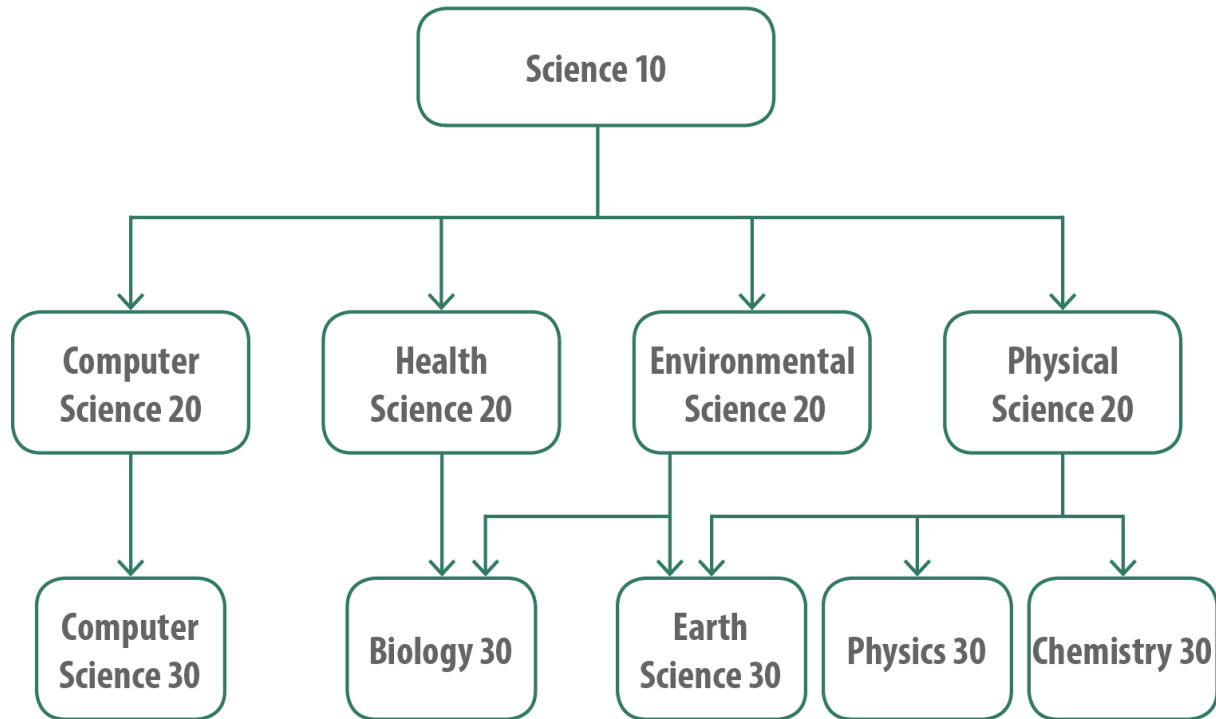


- **Entry for the Advanced Placement Chemistry program is grade 12.**
- **Students wishing to enter into the program should have an average of 85%+ in Physical Science 20 and an overall average of 80%+.**
- **Students with an 80 – 84.9% in PSC20 can also register with the recommendation of their PSC20 teacher.**

The AP Chemistry program is being redesigned to better address the needs of students in their pursuit of enhanced chemistry lab skills and knowledge for post-secondary pathways and for the AP Chemistry exam

Students entering the program should be interested in diving deeper into chemistry as well as interested in science related career paths such as engineering and health science careers including pharmacy, medicine, dentistry and nursing.

Science Pathways Framework



SK Ministry of Education
Science Pathways

AP Chemistry Pathway

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Grade 11	Physical Science 20 (Sem 1 or Sem 2) - 85%+ avg + Optional – Health Sci 20, Enviro Sci 20, Comp Sci 20	
Grade 12 (AP entry point)	Chem 30P Yearlong course (Day A)	
	Chem 30 LP Yearlong course (Day B) (AP Exam written in early May)	

- Students will take Chemistry 30P and then Chemistry 30LP and will receive 2 credits, one for each course.
- These courses may occur one semester after the other or both in second semester depending on scheduling. There are advantages to both ways of offering this.
- Either way, there will be more time to prepare for the exam during regular class time and more time for lab work throughout the course.
- The AP program expects students to complete a minimum of 16 lab investigations. Lots of hands-on learning experiences!

AP Chemistry Pathway

Past AP Exam Results

- Writing the AP Exam is optional and your score on the exam does not count towards your course grade
- In 2024, our Chemistry AP students did very well:
 - 8 of 14 received their AP Credit (and hence a university credit)
 - Outperformed other Saskatchewan schools on average and was higher than the global average as well



STUDENTS TAKING EXAM

YOUR GROUP	SCHOOL	SK	GLOBAL
14	14	36	151,051



MEAN SCORE

YOUR GROUP	SCHOOL	SK	GLOBAL
3.64	3.64	3.47	3.31



% SCORES 3 OR HIGHER

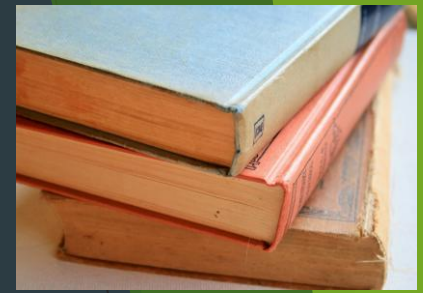
YOUR GROUP	SCHOOL	SK	GLOBAL
100.0%	100.0%	86.1%	75.6%

4) AP French Language & Culture



- Entry for the Advanced Placement French Language & Culture program is grade 12.
- Students who decide to register will meet outside of school hours with the AP French teacher to prepare for the AP exam.
- The AP exam is written in semester 2 of the grade 12 year.

5) AP English Literature & Composition



- Entry for the Advanced English Literature & Composition program pathway is grade 10.
- Students in the AP English pathway will have the opportunity to explore and discuss quality works by great authors. Ideal candidates are students that are eager to do the readings and are ready to share ideas and opinions in a mature and supportive atmosphere.
- Students wishing to be accepted into the program should have at minimum an average of 85% in both English A90 and English B90.

- The Grade 10 and 11 Advanced English courses focus on developing essay writing and literary analysis skills.
- The Grade 12 AP English course is designed to emulate a first-year university class. Along with the possibility of gaining credit for a first-year university class, students benefit by developing university-level essay writing skills.

AP English Pathway

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Grade 9	ELA B90 & ELA B90	
Grade 10 (ELA AP entry point)	ELA 10A	
Grade 11	ELA 20A	
Grade 12	ELA 30P Yearlong (Day A)	
	Creative Writing 30L Yearlong (Day B) (College Board Exam written)	

6) AP Studio Art



- Entry for the Advanced Studio Art program pathway is grade 10.
- Students interested in the Advanced Studio Art program should be enthusiastic about learning, motivated by visual literacy, interested in multi-level problem solving and willing to explore drawing and design.
- Students work toward a goal - 24 high quality images, 12 breadth pieces, 12 concentration pieces and an artist statement.

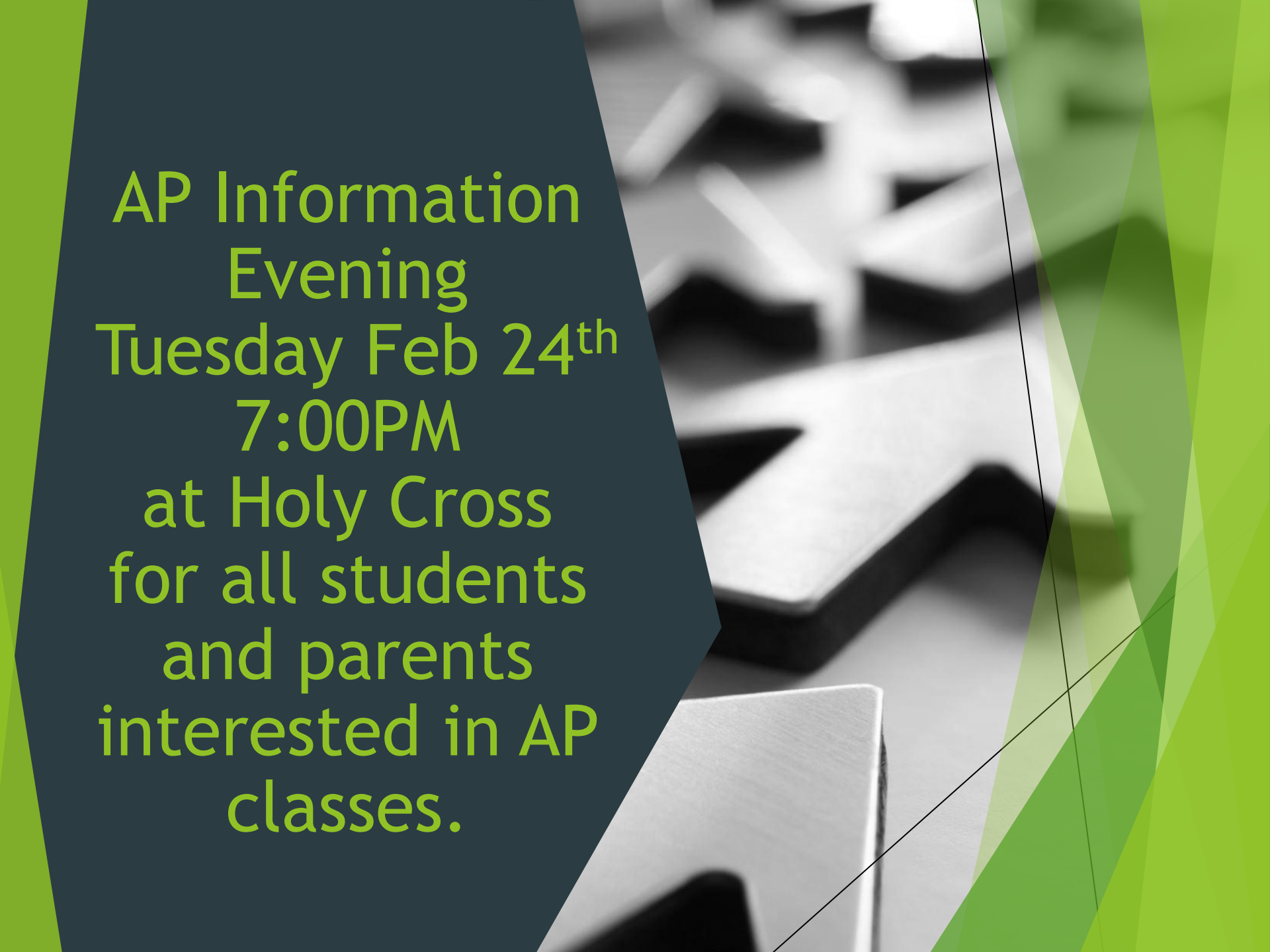
- The Studio Art AP exam in grade 12 consists of the submission of 15 high-quality works of art.
- There are 3 portfolio choices:
 1. Drawing
 2. 2D Design - graphic design or photography
 3. 3D Design or Sculpture
- Submissions must be completed by May of the Grade 12 year.

AP Studio Art Pathway

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Grade 10 (Studio Art AP entry point)	Visual Arts 10A	
Grade 11	Visual Arts 20A + Optional – Photography 30, Graphic Arts 30	
Grade 12	Visual Arts 30P	Studio Art 30P (Portfolio finalized & submitted for AP credit consideration)

AP Registration/Application Process

- Students interested in one or more Advanced Programs should register for the desired programs during the online registration process.
- Following the closure of online registration for the 26-27 School Year, successful applicants will see the AP class in your timetable.
- Students who have chosen to accept a spot into an AP program for the 26-27 school year are expected to remain in the program for the year. Moves back to the regular (non-AP) program mid-year cannot be accommodated.



AP Information
Evening
Tuesday Feb 24th
7:00PM
at Holy Cross
for all students
and parents
interested in AP
classes.

- For more information, contact:

Kelsi Bartake(HC Vice Principal)
at kbartake@gscs.ca or 306-659-7603

OR

Tressa Kokonas (GSCS AP Coordinator)
at tkokonas@gscs.ca or 306-659-7129

Thank you for
consideration
of Advanced
Placement at
Holy Cross!

