

Re: English department pathways changes

From: Gyepes, Steve <stevegyepes@ccusd.org>

Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 3:28 PM PDT (GMT-07:00)

To: Smith, James <jamessmith@ccusd.org>

Cc: Pappert, Kaitlin <kaitlinpappert@ccusd.org>; Schulte, Penny <pennyschulte@ccusd.org>; Valverde, Thelma <thelmavalverde@ccusd.org>; Kelli Tarvyd <kellitarvyd@ccusd.org>; HSCounselors <HSCounselors@ccusd.org>; Lisa Cooper <lisacooper@ccusd.org>; HSTeachers-English <HSTeachers-English@ccusd.org>

We know that they don't receive weighted credit already, but it absolutely looks different versus students from schools where it is clear they are taking the more rigorous choices, regardless of the GPA points. Some would argue that it even looks better when students take those courses knowing that they aren't getting additional grade points, rather it's viewed as they are willing to challenge themselves....

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 2:52 PM Smith, James <jamessmith@ccusd.org> wrote:

Hi Kaitie,

Many thanks to you and the English department for your thorough analysis on this issue. I agree that college is an area of concern that we should dig deeper into, but at the same time do not believe that should be the barrier to moving forward with the plan. I am interested in being a part of the process moving forward if/when needed and am open to attending on the 18th depending on the time (I am available up until 7pm).

Best,

James Smith, MA (He/Him) | Counselor

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On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 2:34 PM Pappert, Kaitlin <kaitlinpappert@ccusd.org> wrote:

Last email I swear (for now) -

Another district on the Westside of LA that is comparable with CCHS is also revising their course offerings. I've collaborated with their department chair, and they sent me this regarding college admissions concerns:

One section of [their report] is a "frequently asked questions" where we are attempting to address our most anticipated questions. One of those is about "college competitiveness" and we were fortunate to have one of our College Counselors prepare a response. Here is what we have so far:

Will my child still be competitive when they apply to college?

From XXXXX in the College and Career Center: "Though course rigor across a student's high school career plays a role in college admission, it differs among colleges. For example, the CSU and UC system do not designate honors level for English 9/10 HP. (<https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist/institution/1254>) This also applies to Geometry HP, Algebra II HP, and Biology HP to name a few more courses. Since these courses are not considered honors level, they will not receive an extra point when a weighted GPA is calculated by the respective systems. Moreover, when it comes to the "top 10" schools _____ students apply to, are accepted by, and enroll in, CSU and UC system schools remain among the top. With regards to private and out-of-state schools, policies will vary since there are hundreds of

schools. However, most of these schools will request a _____ School Profile, which will list all Honors/AP courses offered so that students are reviewed within their local context. For more information on private and out-of-state schools, students are encouraged to contact college admission offices."

College admissions look at each school's course offerings individually, and take into consideration whether a student engages in the most rigorous course offerings available. Because _____ High School will no longer offer an honors option for 9th and 10th grade, your student's competitiveness will not be jeopardized in any way. Essentially, our current 9th and 10th grade honors courses are in name only, as it does not count as a 5 point A for their weighted GPA.

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 12:55 PM Schulte, Penny <pennyschulte@ccusd.org> wrote:
That's Magee.

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 12:55 PM Schulte, Penny <pennyschulte@ccusd.org> wrote:
I know that Pali HS has already done this. I can write to Pam McGee (former CCHS principal and current Pali principal) to seek advice on this issue.

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 12:51 PM Pappert, Kaitlin <kaitlinpappert@ccusd.org> wrote:

Thank you all for your prompt responses.

I am definitely open to facilitating a deeper conversation, or, perhaps at your next PLC this is something that can be addressed? Or you can attend an English PLC to discuss further?

I don't want to put anyone in a position they aren't comfortable with, but I also don't want to avoid addressing some larger, systemic issues, and the tracking that results.

Please let me know how to support this conversation so we're offering courses that best reflect the DEI mission of the district while not penalizing college applicants or having students suffer unintended consequences (not what I want at all!) :)

KP

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 12:45 PM Valverde, Thelma <thelmavalverde@ccusd.org> wrote:
Hello Kaitlin,

I agree. We can't speak for all colleges, especially between private and public. Most colleges say each high school is reviewed independently based on course offerings and the choices a high school student makes within what is available to them. That implies the students are reviewed within the context of their own school curriculum and not compared to other high schools. However, there is no way to truly know if that is the case. As with everything to do with college admissions they are not very transparent. I think the counseling department will need to discuss this further. As Steve mentioned, we would not be prepared to answer questions brought forth by parents and students. Another issue is how competitive our students have become overall in preparing for selective college admissions and literally count how many AP and honors classes they can accumulate.

Best,

Thelma Valverde, College Counselor

pronouns: She/Her

Hablo Español

CCHS Counseling Canvas

Naviance Coordinator

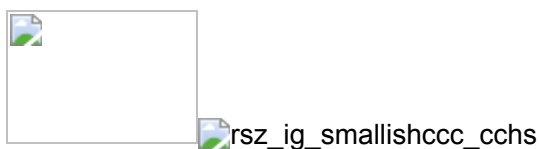
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On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 12:20 PM Gyepes, Steve <stevegyepes@ccusd.org> wrote:

This is a much bigger discussion than what we think. When our kids have to compete for college acceptance with students from other schools who have identified higher rigor on their transcripts, the question really becomes how will the Universities view this change. Please don't misunderstand, I'm not opposed, but the implications could have unintended consequences that need to be vetted well before we start trying to answer parent's questions as it relates to college.

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 12:10 PM Pappert, Kaitlin <kaitlinpappert@ccusd.org> wrote:

Hello fabulous counseling department!

I mentioned in Leadership about how the English department, after EIGHT years of data analysis and department discussion, has decided to revise our course pathways from separate tracks of English 9/9H and 10/10H into one, inclusive course of "College Preparatory English 9" and "College Preparatory English 10."

One of the steps to make this happen is to host a Town Hall for our parent stakeholders to explain why we are offering these new pathways and to inform them about what that means in terms of coursework, AP preparation, as well as in terms of college applications. That last bit is where y'all come in!

I would love to collaborate with your department, and I would SUPER LOVE to have someone (or many someones) from your department attend the Town Hall on November 18th and speak about the college admissions implications to these pathways changes.

Are you interested in collaborating? Want to learn more? Please email me and I can figure out a time for us all to chat!

Want to see the Town Hall slideshow (and maybe add to the Counseling slide?)? Please email me and I can send your way!

Think you can attend the Town Hall to speak and address parent concerns with College Admissions stuff? Please email me and I can send you baked goods as a sign of my eternal gratitude. That's eternal, as in the afterlife I will continue this gratitude and send baked goods into the ether. :)

Hope to hear from y'all, and also, THANK YOU so much for all you do, and for your support, and just for everything.

xoKP

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Penny Schulte
Culver City High School
English teacher

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Culver City High School
English teacher
