

February 2020

# SMOKE SIGNALS

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Martin High School PTSA Newsletter



**Welcome to Warrior Country!**

# Counselors' Corner

## Counselor Assignments

A-Brov.....	David Pyatt
Brow-Dea.....	Amy Benson
Deb-Grav .....	Jana Lewis
Graw-John .....	Suzanne Bandy
Marv-Orr .....	Connie David
Ort-Roh.....	Karen Peters
Roj-Toh.....	Susan Kingen
Toc-Z .....	Jai Davis
STEM A-L.....	Sara Stringer
STEM M-Z.....	Stephanie Vreeland
AVID.....	Edwina Thompson

## ADVANCED CLASS BENEFITS

### • Stand out in college admissions

Taking Advanced classes shows colleges and universities that you have what it takes to be successful in the college environment. When admissions officers see "AP" on your transcript, they know that you are prepared for the challenges of college.

### • Earn college credit

By taking an AP course and scoring successfully on the related exam, you can save on college expenses. Most colleges nationwide offer credit for qualifying AP scores.

### • Skip introductory classes

Taking AP courses and passing exams related to your college major can help you avoid required introductory tests, allowing you to move directly into upper-level classes that will be more interesting and relevant to your degree.

### • Build college skills

Advanced courses help you develop the skills you'll need throughout your college years. You'll give your mind a rigorous workout while polishing up your time-management skills. You'll also get better at handling challenging issues and problems with the support of your Advanced teachers. These courses help you know what to expect from college.

### • Get the most out of your classes

## SCHEDULING FOR NEXT YEAR

Throughout January and February, counselors will register students for next year's classes. One thing to consider is whether to take Advanced classes (formerly called Advanced Placement or AP classes). Your counselor can help you decide what's right for you.

## THE LOWDOWN ON ADVANCED CLASSES

### MYTH

Advanced courses are too stressful

I can't afford to take the AP exam

Advanced courses have too much extra work

I can't take Advanced courses because no one recommended me

I won't score high enough on the exam to get credit

Taking Advanced courses could hurt my GPA

### REALITY

Advanced courses are challenging; however, the support you'll receive from your classmates and teachers can help ease your worries.

AP aims to be affordable for everyone, so fee reductions are available for students with financial need.

You'll have to work hard in AP, but you'll be doing hard work that is worthwhile.

If you think you're ready, you can advocate for yourself. Talk to a teacher or counselor.

You don't need to score a 5. Most colleges grant credit based on a 3.

Your decision to take Advanced classes shows admissions officers that you're willing to take on the academic challenge of college-level work.

## Looking for scholarships?

[bit.ly/MHS-scholarships](http://bit.ly/MHS-scholarships)

*Did you know?* February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Dating violence is more common than many people think. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience a form of abuse by a romantic partner before they become adults. Visit [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org) for more information.

5th Annual

**WARRIOR**

**BAND ON THE  
RUN**



# **Martin band to host 5k Run on March 21**

**The Warrior Band on the Run 5k, sponsored by the James Martin High School Band, will return for its fifth year at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 21. Funds raised will support the band's trip to Washington, D.C., to march in the National Memorial Day Parade in May.**

**Learn more and sign up to walk or run at [www.warriorbandontherun.com](http://www.warriorbandontherun.com)**