

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**February 9, 2016**

**CATALINA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
COLLEGE BOARD'S AP CAPSTONE™ PROGRAM**

*The AP Capstone Diploma Program Focuses on  
Inquiry, Research, and Writing Skills Crucial for College and Career Success*

TUCSON, AZ — Catalina Foothills High School is one of more than 600 schools worldwide to implement AP Capstone™ — an innovative diploma program that allows students to develop the skills that matter most for their future college success: research, collaboration, and communication. The program includes a two-course sequence: AP® Seminar and AP Research. Developed in direct response to feedback from higher education faculty and college admission officers, AP Capstone complements the in-depth, subject-specific rigor of Advanced Placement® courses and exams.

“This innovative program aligns with Foothills’ goal of preparing our broader, more diverse student population for college and career readiness,” according to Dr. Angela Chomokos, principal of Catalina Foothills High School. “We are among just a handful of Arizona high schools to offer the AP Capstone program, and one of just over 100 nationwide.”

AP Seminar, starting in the fall of 2016, is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listen to and view speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

AP Research, coming in 2017-18, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest. Through this exploration, students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong mentored, research-based investigation to address a research question. In the AP Research course, students further their skills acquired in the AP Seminar course by understanding research methods; employing ethical research practices; and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information as they address a research question. The course culminates in an academic thesis paper of approximately 5,000 words and a presentation, performance, or exhibition with an oral defense.

Students who complete AP Seminar and AP Research with scores of 3 or higher, and receive scores of 3 or higher on four AP Exams in subjects of their choosing, will receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on the two AP Capstone exams but do not take or earn qualifying scores on four additional AP Exams will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

Both courses are electives and will be offered as either English electives or social studies electives.

For more information, contact:

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-OR-

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The Catalina Foothills School District is Tucson's leading educational choice for PreK-12, educating many students living throughout the greater metro area. District schools offer a dynamic curriculum that engages students in deep learning taught by highly competent teachers who are held accountable for learning results — 97.5% of CFSd students graduate and 94% attend college. A CFSd education prepares students to become responsible citizens in the global community.

