

*A knowledge of statistics is like a knowledge of foreign languages or of algebra; it may prove of use at any time under any circumstances.*

– Sir Arthur L. Bowley

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**Course description.** The purpose of the Advanced Placement (AP) course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes (AP Course Description, College Board, 2005):

1. Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns
2. Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study
3. Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation
4. Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses

**Textbook.** Daniel Yates, David Moore, and Daren Starnes. *The Practice of Statistics*. 3rd edition, WH Freeman, New York, 2008 (\$85).

**Calculators.** A TI-83+ calculator is a must for this class. If you do not already have one, I recommend that you purchase a TI-84+ or TI-84+ Silver Edition calculator.

**Grades.** Grades will be assigned according to Cobb County School District Policy with 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 74-79 C, 70-73 D, and less than 70 F. The final grade is based on the following categories:

- 20% Final Exam
- 50% Tests
- 25% Projects and quizzes
- 5% Concept checks and homework

The final grade is heavily weighted toward tests, quizzes, and the final exam because AP STAT is a college-level class that requires college-level work.

**AP Exam.** The AP STAT Exam will be given in the afternoon session on May 4, 2010. All students are strongly encouraged to take the exam. All AP exams are graded on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being the worst and 5 the best. A score of 3 or better is considered to be passing, and many colleges will give course credit for scores of 3 or higher. However, these policies vary considerably from college to college.

**Expectations.** Like all Advanced Placement classes, AP STAT is a college-level class taught in high school. Students are expected to act like responsible young adults. To get the most out of AP STAT, students need to be willing to work independently, manage their time wisely, work cooperatively, take chances, and study hard. Activities, labs, and computer work will require students to work outside of class.

If you want to do well on the AP Exam, you must see learning the material as your responsibility. **Reading the textbook** is essential to your success on the tests in this class and the AP test. I've never had a student make a 5 on the exam that didn't work independently to learn the material.

**Extra help.** I am more than willing to work with you before or after school or answer your emails about specific problems, concepts, etc. Ask for help as soon as possible, and I will work hard to see that you get it. Don't wait until the day of a test or exam—I may not be available. I am most often available before school in my room (Room 2216) after 8:00. I will also plan to be available for this class on Tuesday afternoons.

**Dear Parent (or Guardian),**

Attached to this letter is a handout of information about your child's AP Statistics class. Please take a few minutes and read what your student and I have already discussed in class. AP STAT is a college-level class that will be taught in accordance with national standards for rigor and content as established by the College Board. Please understand that the expectations for your student in this class are much higher than they are in a regular or even an honors-level high school class. Therefore, please invest in your student's success by checking their progress early and often to be sure they are completing their out-of-class assignments, keeping up with their reading, and studying for tests. Feel free to contact me via e-mail (casey.jones@cobbk12.org) or phone (678.331.3961 ext. 426) with any questions or concerns.

Is there anything that you want me to know about your student that will help him or her to be successful?

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's (Guardian's) Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evening phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below I state that I have read the **AP STAT Syllabus and Class Expectations** and that I have discussed it with my student.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date