

Advanced Placement (AP) classes provide rigorous academic experiences for high school students to better prepare them for college.

However, because of the content breadth of these courses and focus of the skills and exam frameworks, most AP classes do not teach research skills. For example, a student can take four years of AP social studies without having to write an in-depth research paper. Colleges expect students to have these research skills.



*AP Capstone Diploma program is awarded to students who successfully complete both the AP Seminar and AP Research courses, in addition to scoring a three or above on four other AP exams.*

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

To address the gap in research experiences, Bellevue Schools Foundation is excited to partner with the district and the College Board to launch the new AP Capstone Diploma. The two AP Capstone courses, with their associated performance tasks, assessments, and application of research methodology, complement the rigor of AP courses and exams by challenging students to:

- Think critically and creatively to construct meaning or gain understanding
- Plan and conduct a study or investigation
- Propose solutions to real-world problems
- Plan and produce communication in various forms
- Collaborate to solve a problem
- Integrate, synthesize, and make cross-curricular connections

The district's goal is to implement the program at Bellevue and Newport High Schools. The AP Capstone Diploma is awarded to students who successfully complete both the AP Seminar and AP Research courses, in addition to scoring a three or above on four other AP exams.

*Budget: \$23,000*

*Timeline: September 2017—August 2018*

## MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

Five key metrics will be used to measure outcomes of the AP Capstone Diploma program: AP Seminar course enrollment; AP Research course enrollment; AP Seminar exam scores; number of students submitting work to conferences or state/national competitions; and student feedback.