



# An Introduction to the AP Capstone™ Program

NORTHEAST KINGS EDUCATION CENTRE

# Welcome

Northeast Kings Education Centre is committed to every student's academic, social, emotional and physical success.

We believe access to challenging course work such as Advanced Placement® (AP®) plays an important role in our students' academic development. We are proud to have the opportunity to introduce AP Capstone at our school for our students since the Fall 2016:

**AP**Capstone™



# Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> : The Basics

- AP<sup>®</sup> courses are university-level courses offered in high school
- Courses reflect what is taught in top introductory university courses
- Students take **AP Exams** at the end of the course to measure their mastery of university-level work
- A score of 3, 4 or 5 on an AP Exam can typically earn students university credit and/or placement into advanced courses in university



# Our AP<sup>®</sup> Courses

- **AP Capstone:** AP Seminar September 2016 and AP Research September 2018
- **Arts:** 18 AP Music Theory September 2018, AP Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, September 2019
- **English:** AP Research is recognized as a grade 12 English course
- **History and Social Sciences:** Human Geography September 2016, AP Psychology September 2017
- **Mathematics and Computer Science:** AP Computer Science A September 2017
- **Sciences:** AP Biology continued, and AP Environmental Science September 2008
- **World languages:** for September 2021 AP French Language and Culture

# AP<sup>®</sup> at NORTHEAST KINGS EDUCATION CENTRE

- First Public School in Maritime Provinces to have AP Capstone designation
- First School in the World to support AP Capstone Virtual School through the DOEECD
- Host all AVRCE AP virtual students to write their exams here at our school in May of each year
- Going to provide the most challenging and rewarding academic Program to our strongest hard-working academic students to prepare them for post secondary success

# AP<sup>®</sup>: Skills & Advantages that Last a Lifetime

- Taking an AP course helps students build critical thinking skills, confidence, work ethic and determination, and the essential time management and study skills needed for university success.
- Nationally, research shows that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically earn higher grade point averages in university and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers.\*

*\*2009, The College Board, "The Relationship Between AP Exam Performance and College Outcomes"*

# AP<sup>®</sup> Helps Students Graduate on Time & Save Money

Students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a university degree on time.\*  
Graduating in four years represents a significant savings on the cost of university.

- Only 1 in 4 university students completes a bachelor's degree in 4 years.
- The average cost of university for a single year is \$21,600\*\* for public universities (in-province tuition, fees, room/board, misc. expenses).

\*College Outcomes Comparisons by AP and Non-AP High School Experiences, *The College Board, 2008*

\*\**The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2011, Figure 1*



# What is the AP Capstone Program?





# Introducing - AP Capstone

**AP**Capstone™ is an innovative program that develops the critical skills needed to succeed in university and in your future career.

Emphasizes Critical Skills Needed  
for University & Beyond

Complements the in-depth  
subject-matter study in AP

Two mandatory courses—**AP Seminar** and **AP Research**—allow students to immerse themselves in topics that matter to them, while they develop the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that universities seek in their applicants.

# The Pinnacle of Distinction – AP Capstone Diploma™

This challenging program helps students deepen their passion for learning, gives them greater confidence in your academic skills, and a broader perspective on their world.

**AP Capstone Diploma™**

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma**.

## AP SEMINAR (Year 1)

Team Project & Presentation

Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation

End-of-Course Exam

## AP RESEARCH (Year 2)

Academic Paper

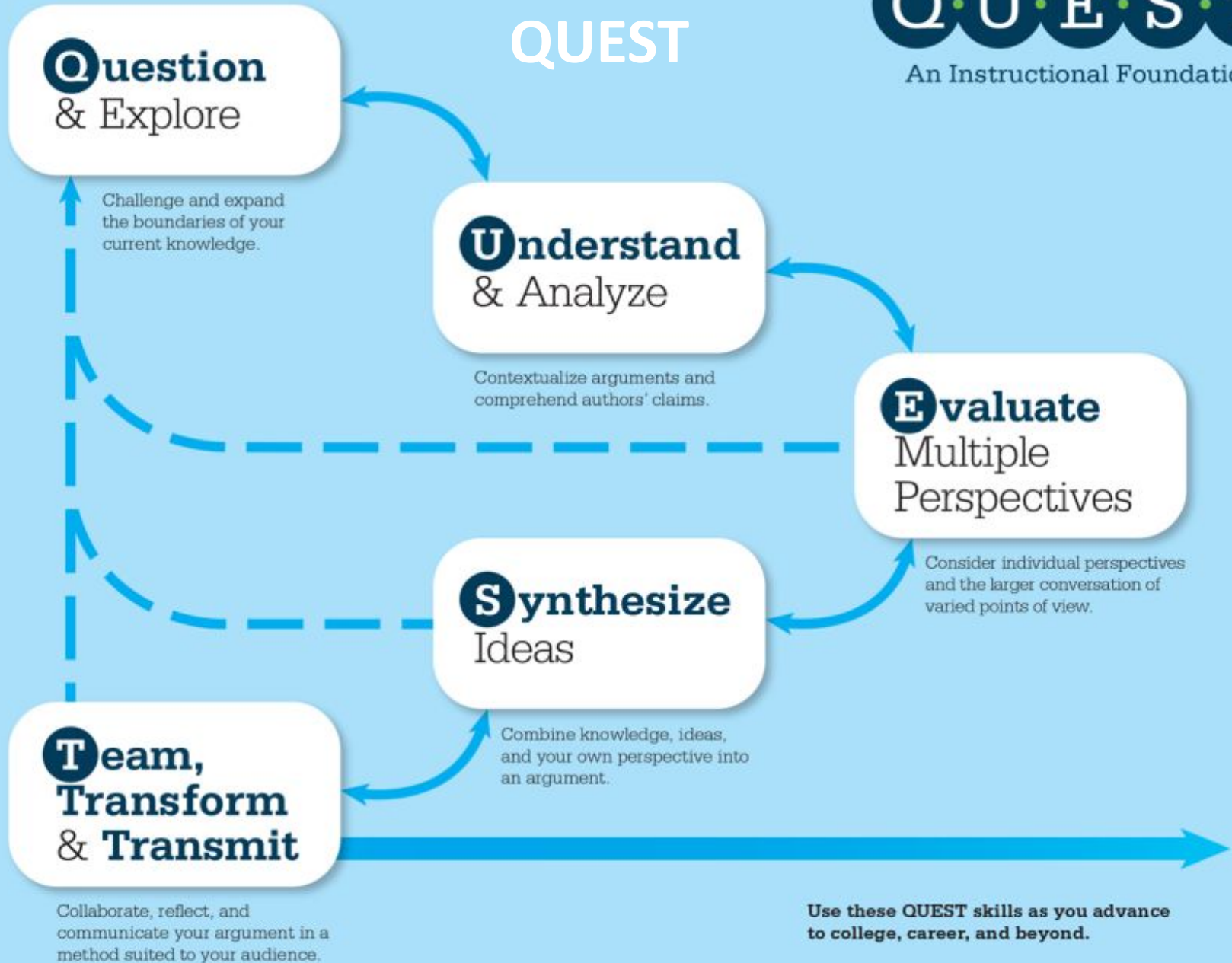
Presentation & Oral Defense

4 AP COURSES & EXAMS  
(Taken at any point throughout high school)

## AP Seminar and Research Certificate™

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research will receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™**

# QUEST



# AP Seminar

*Typically taken in grade 10 or 11.*

## Students learn how to:

- Investigate real-world topics from multiple perspectives
- Carefully analyze information, write evidence-based arguments and effectively communicate them
- Work independently and with a team to research a topic, develop a written report and deliver a presentation

### Example Topics

Democracy  
Education  
Environment  
Revolution  
Technology  
Sustainability

## Exam score based on:

1. Team Project & Presentation
  - 25%
2. Individual Research-Based Essay & Presentation
  - 35%
3. End-of-Course Exam
  - 40%



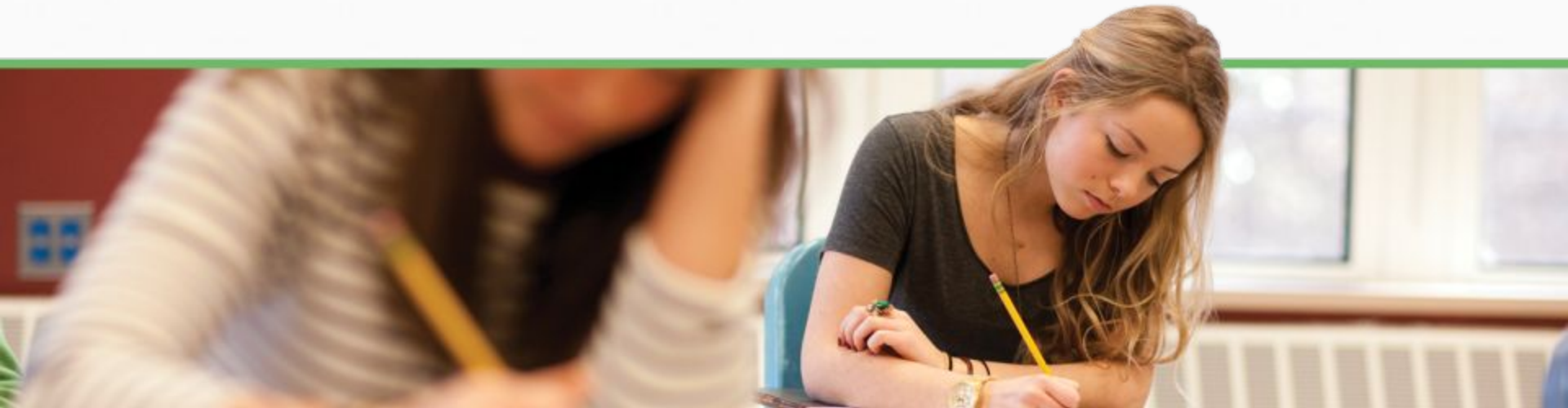
*Teachers & Students select and study 2-4 topics.*

# AP<sup>®</sup> Capstone Exam Fees

- The 2021-22 virtual exam fees for AP Seminar and AP Research are \$143 US each.
- Assistance is available for eligible students with financial need:
  - The College Board offers exam fee reductions for eligible students with financial need.
  - *At Northeast Kings we will get financial support to pay for each exam you write thanks to our DOEECD and the AVRCE.*

# AP Capstone: The Benefits

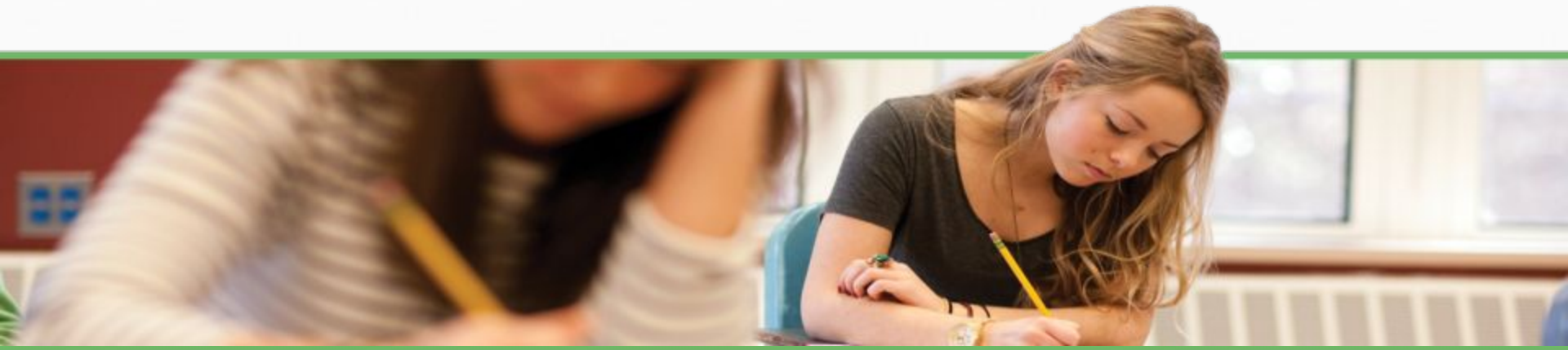
- **Acquire Critical Skills** – Students acquire challenging university-level analysis, writing, and research skills that are increasingly valued by universities
- **Step Ahead of Others** – Opportunity to earn valuable university credits to reduce course load each year or speed up graduation date
- **Choose what to study** – Students choose their own research topic and study issues and topics of interest and importance to them





# AP Capstone: The Benefits

- **Maintain High Academic Average** – Students who take two AP courses a year will be able to take six DOEECD courses and so they can use their six or five highest final grades to calculate their average
- **Take a Variety of High School Courses other than the AP Courses** – Students will be able to take 18 Nova Scotia approved courses along with their AP Capstone Program courses
- **Choose individual AP courses but not the Capstone Program requirements** – Option to take one to six courses.



# AP Capstone: The Challenges

- **Increased Workload** – Students who take two AP courses a year will have from one to two hours (on average) of homework a day.
- **Added Pressure and Stressors**– Students will be taking the two most demanding courses they have taken in their lives. There will be tears during the first month. Not kidding. 😊
- **Work Ethic Needed** – Students have to have or develop quickly, a sticktoitiveness quality to persevere over challenges.
- **Organization Needed** – Students have to be organized and have time management skills to be successful.





# What Our Students are saying about AP Capstone

“I feel that it has greatly developed my work ethic and is constantly preparing me for post secondary. I look at every assignment like I am doing it for the next level and not just the HS level”

—12 Northeast Kings Education Centre

“I have always gone through school without studying and always getting high marks. AP Capstone is challenging and while it is not easy, I love the challenge.”

—10 Northeast Kings Education Centre

“AP has been a great experience so far, it has really opened my eyes to how much work I am capable of doing and how important hard work is to my success ”

—10 Northeast Kings Education Centre

“Very challenging. A lot of work, but it really helps prepare you better for the transition into university ”

—10 Northeast Kings Education Centre



# What Our Students are saying about AP Capstone

“This has been the most challenging and the most rewarding thing I have ever done in my life. I feel that I am getting very prepared to do well at university when I go”

—12 Northeast Kings Education Centre

“I have made friends in my courses that I didn’t know before I entered the Capstone Program that have become my best friends in my life. They want to be challenged and work at solving problems just like me.”

—11 Northeast Kings Education

“AP has prepared me so well for university. I have gotten all A’s in my first semester of my Science degree and took a lesser course load due to earning university credits from my AP courses in high school .

—Former Student now attending University

“I feel like I am a leader in my residence. Peers come to me about prep for papers and exams because I have already done this and have skills to share with them ”

—Former Student now attending University



# How Northeast Kings Students Have Done in Year 3?

|   | AP Seminar | AP Human Geog | AP Biology | AP Chemistry | AP Environ Science | AP Psychology | AP Computer Science | AP Research | AP Studio Drawing | AP Music Theory |
|---|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>NKEC</b><br>Average score on AP exam | 3.20       | 3.35          | 3.07       | 4.0          | 3.56               | NA            | NA                  | NA          | NA                | NA              |
|   | 3.21       | 3.39          | 3.21       | 4.0          | 3.60               | 3.70          | 3.124               | 5.00        | NA                | NA              |
|   | 2.85       | 2.48          | 3.25       | 4.0          | 3.60               | 3.29          | NA                  | 3.70        | NA                | 5.00            |
|   | 2.89       | 2.70          | 3.15       | 3.3          | 3.40               | 3.20          | 3.8                 | 4.10        | 4.0               | 5.00            |
|   | 3.56       | 3.64          | 2.79       | 2.33         | 3.25               | 3.20          | 3.70                | 3.75        | 3.67              | NA              |
| <b>GLOBAL</b><br>score on AP exam       | 3.19       | 2.69          | 2.83       | 2.66         | 2.67               | 2.70          | 3.12                | 3.30        | 3.50              | 3.03            |



# Our Students : Up Close & Personal

*“100% worth it!”*

*“AP helps so much with my time/work management!”*

*“What you learn is worth the pain 😊 “*

*“I have a challenge every day and I enjoy it!”*

*“It helps me see how university is going to work.”*

*“Having to push myself consistently taught me to be self-critical and constantly improve.”*





AP<sup>®</sup>



# Questions and Answers