

Dear AP Statistics Student,

Welcome to Advanced Placement Statistics!

I am so excited to have you in class and look forward to an awesome year. The 2019-2020 school year was a tough one due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but we have all persevered and we made it through! The 2020-2021 school year will be my ninth year at WGHS along with my ninth year teaching AP Statistics. Last summer I became an AP Reader, this is where I grade AP Statistics exam for college board for a whole week! It is so much fun and I am very honored that although they cancelled the face to face reading in Kansas City, I was still invited to read the AP Statistics exam this year as well, it will just be online. Being an AP Reader has drastically changed my approach to teaching this course, and I cannot wait to share all of the information I learned with you!

Now, some more information about the course!! We live in a new age — the age of information — and we are bombarded with that information, often in the form of raw numbers, graphs, charts, or prediction lines. Commercial television is filled with advertisements touting the newest drug. Schools change entire curriculums on the strength of one experiment. Businesses and politicians make decisions based on research. Being ***data-driven*** is the new catch-phrase.

So, who needs statistics? Apparently, more people than you think. More of us will use statistics than we will use calculus, trigonometry, or college algebra; that makes AP Statistics your opportunity to learn how to produce and use data, to recognize bad data, and to make decisions with data. Statistics allows ***you*** to drive the data, rather than being driven by it.

AP Statistics is a fresh start: This isn't a typical math class. You do not need to remember how to factor a polynomial, graph a sine curve, or prove triangles congruent. AP Statistics is an introductory course in statistics. You will learn how to collect, organize, analyze, and interpret data AND you will never ask, "when will we ever use this?" Problems are almost always based on real-world studies in a variety of fields. In addition, I have adopted the StatsMedic approach to teaching this amazing course. You might be asking yourself now, what does that mean? Well it means we will be doing fun activities almost everyday while learning about this really cool world of statistics!! The four main topics we will cover throughout the course will be:

1. Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from pattern.
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.

Students in AP Statistics will NOT be required to complete a summer packet however will be required to come in on a Saturday before AP exams begin to take a mock exam. I will provide more details about the mock exam when we meet in August.

That is all for now. If you need anything at all or have any questions about anything, please email me. My email is [simonen@gcsnc.com](mailto:simonen@gcsnc.com). I cannot wait to see you all in August and start learning with you all!!

Sincerely,

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