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We are very pleased to present a new academic opportunity that will soon be available to our high school students at North River Christian Academy! Beginning with the 2010/2011 academic year, NRCA will be modifying the qualifications for students who wish to receive an Advanced Diploma. In the past, the NRCA Advanced Diploma was awarded to students who accumulated a greater number of high school credit hours. The new program will involve several changes designed to better prepare students for college and the academic expectations that they will encounter after high school graduation.

The most significant opportunity will be the privilege to participate in the new Advanced Academic Program (AAP) that will be implemented beginning in August 2010. The Advanced Academic Program will offer a more in-depth level of instruction in two key areas of your child's education: English and History. All high school (9-12) students that earn a 3.0 yearly GPA average in the previous year's English or History classes will be eligible to enter the NRCA Advanced Academic Program. Students are not required to participate in both English and History AAP. They are not required to continue participation in AAP the following year once they have begun. However, students must be enrolled in AAP classes during their junior and senior year to qualify for the NRCA Advanced Diploma.

Students in the AAP classes will attend regular English and History classes with their peers, but they will be supplied additional assignments above the level of expectations in a regular class. These assignments may include supplemental readings or additional writing assignments and will be averaged into the grade the student receives in the regular class at a designated percentage level. To compensate, Advanced Academic Program students will also receive additional instruction time with the teacher(s). Options being considered are an arranged class period daily specifically for AAP students and/or pre-scheduled after school meetings. This extra material will be geared towards further preparing students for college level work.

There are several distinct privileges that will be available to AAP students at NRCA. Students who participate in and complete the Advanced Academic Program will have Advanced English, Advanced History, or both listed on their transcripts. This will make the student's transcript much more attractive to college admissions officials, especially if the student excels in the classes.

One of the most exciting privileges that NRCA Advanced Academic Program students will be presented with is the opportunity to take the College Board Advanced Placement Tests if they choose to work toward that goal. These tests are designed to determine a student's academic preparation for college in various subject areas. If a student scores well on an AP Exam, they will receive actual college credit hours at the college or university they choose to attend. The hours earned from passing AP Exams are gained at a fraction of the cost of taking the corresponding class on a college campus!

We hope that you are as excited as we are about the increased academic opportunities available for our NRCA high school students! Students currently in grades 8-11 who are eligible for the 2010/2011 AAP will be notified after all grades are in for the spring semester. Please let us know if you have questions about any of our programs at NRCA, or want to find out more about the NRCA AAP opportunities. We look forward to the additional success of our students at the college level and beyond and hope that you share our enthusiasm about our advanced academic offerings for students in grades 9-12 at North River Christian Academy!

Shane McInnis, AAP Coordinator
Margaret Todd, Counselor