

AP PSYCHOLOGY INFORMATION

You're on my list of students who are interested in taking AP psychology next year. If you stick with the class, you'll be expected to pay for and take the AP psychology test next May. It's about \$85, and you can apply for assistance from the College Board if you can't afford it.

I received a generous grant from the Judge Parent Association last year to buy a classroom set of the \$125 AP text books. This means you will just need to purchase the regular psychology reader for about \$30 and plan to pay a rental fee of about \$15 for the textbook. You'll pay this rental fee when you buy your other books. Thank goodness for JPA! The reader is the same as this year's (*Forty Studies that Changed Psychology*, by Roger Hock, 5th edition, Prentice-Hall), in case you know someone who's already taken psychology.

Over the summer, please read ONE of the books listed below. All are available on Amazon and in public libraries. Take notes as you read, not on every single thing, but on twenty or so ideas or experiments that catch your interest, disturb you, or make you want to find out more. During the first week of class we will have an *open-note quiz* on the book. You'll simply be asked to elaborate in a structured way on several of your items of interest. So don't get stressed and try to memorize things; just read and enjoy *the whole book* and don't forget to write some ideas down and *save your notes*.

The books to choose from are:

Animals in Translation by Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson

This is Your Brain on Music by Daniel J. Levitin

Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain by John J. Ratey and Eric Hagerman

The Spiritual Brain: A Neuroscientist's Case for the Existence of the Soul, by Mario Beauregard and Denyse O'Leary

Unless you've already taken psych I and/or psych II, you will be enrolled in psych I and psych II with kids who are NOT taking it as an AP class (that's why you can easily change your mind). AP kids should plan to attend, most weeks, a 45-minute tutorial before or after school. During first semester the tutorial will probably be offered Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings (you can attend either one). You will have much extra reading, and some extra assignments, and extra questions on each test, compared to the regular class. Feel free to email me any time this summer if you have questions.

If you are taking AP psych "a la carte" because you've already taken psych I, please send me a good email address for yourself so I can get in touch with you when school starts, since I won't see you in the regular class.

I look forward to teaching you and learning with you, and hope you have a great summer. If you lose this sheet, you'll find it on my website, which you can reach by clicking on my name on the faculty page of the Judge website.

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