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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COLLEGE BOARD'S AP CAPSTONE™ PROGRAM

Diploma Program Focuses on Inquiry, Research, and Writing Skills Crucial for College and Career Success

Joel R. Farren, Principal of Germantown High School, is proud to announce that Germantown High School is one of approximately 1,000 schools worldwide to implement AP Capstone™, an innovative diploma program that allows students to develop the skills that matter most for college success: research, collaboration, and communication. The program consists of two courses taken in sequence: AP® Seminar and AP Research. Developed in direct response to feedback from higher education faculty and college admission officers, AP Capstone complements the in-depth, subject-specific study of other Advanced Placement® courses and exams.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on AP Seminar and AP Research assessments and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will earn the AP Capstone Diploma™. This signifies their outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher on both AP Seminar and AP Research assessments only (but not on four additional AP Exams) will earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

Germantown High School will start AP Seminar in the fall of 2017, taught by English Teacher Mrs. Cassandra Hanson, who reflected, “After a visit to Wauwatosa East last year to view final student presentations in Mrs. Biebel’s AP Seminar class, I became extremely excited to propose and start the AP Capstone program at GHS. There are only a small number of schools in our area who have been accepted as AP Capstone schools, so this is a very unique opportunity for GHS students. I look forward to growing the program and generating more student interest so that many have the opportunity to delve into college-level research processes, philosophical principles, and inquiry based topics.”

Mr. Farren added, “This innovative, project-based program attempts to attract a more broad and diverse student population, while preparing them well for college and beyond. The program gives the instructors more flexibility with curriculum and interest-based choices, so their students can access areas of passion in a more challenging format, while sharpening their reading, writing, analytical and collaborative skills.”

The AP Seminar course will be taken by 11th or 12th graders in 2017-18, since this is the first year of the offering, and then 11th graders in the following years. The course equips students with the ability to look at real-world issues from multiple perspectives. Through a variety of materials—articles to research studies to foundational and philosophical texts—students tackle

complex questions; understand and evaluate opposing viewpoints; interpret and synthesize information; and construct, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments. Education, innovation, sustainability, and technology are examples of themes or topics covered in AP Seminar. However, teachers have the flexibility to choose subject content based on student interests, whether local, regional, national, or global. By tapping into students' personal interests, AP Capstone gives students from a wide range of backgrounds an entry point into stimulating coursework more than ever before. Students are assessed through: a team project and presentation, an individual project and presentation, and an end-of-course written exam.

In the subsequent AP Research course, students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest, documenting their process with a portfolio. Students build on skills developed in the AP Seminar course by learning how to understand research methodology; employ ethical research practices; and collect, analyze, and synthesize information to build, present, and defend an argument.

“We are proud to offer AP Capstone, which enables students and teachers to focus on topics of their choice in great depth,” said Trevor Packer, senior vice president for AP and instruction at the College Board. He adds, “This provides terrific opportunities for students to develop the ability to write and present their work effectively, individually, and in groups—the very skills college professors want their students to possess.”

By responding to and partnering with the higher education community, the College Board developed AP Capstone so students can practice skills that will serve them well in college and career. Because the program is a result of feedback from education professionals, it is not surprising that several colleges and universities have confirmed their support of for the program.

“AP Capstone is a unique program that teaches skills we think are very valuable not only for college but life,” said John Barnhill, assistant vice president for enrollment management at Florida State University. “The ability to analyze, to critically think, to present information is really wonderful, and I think both courses do a great job of preparing the student for the rest of their lives.”

About Germantown High School's Advanced Placement Program

There has been a dedicated effort for Germantown High School and the Germantown School District to add Advanced Placement Courses over the past several years. Six courses with nine applicable exams have been added within the last two school years with the most recent being: AP European History, AP Physics 1 and AP Studio Art 2D, 3D and Drawing. AP Seminar will be our 15th course, followed by AP Research, which will then bring us to 16. Planning has begun for AP Human Geography, a freshman level course, for the 2018-19 school year. Special thanks to the teachers who conducted the research and training to teach these courses, the Department Chairs, Germantown High School Administrators and School Counselors, Germantown School District Directors of Teaching and Learning and the Board of Education for their support of these programs. We continue to increase enrollment in classes and test participation, setting another record for the amount of tests taken in May of 2016 with 795 tests taken by 373 students.

On December 15, 2016, Germantown School District was informed that it was one of 433 school districts in the United States and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll. This prestigious award was based on an analysis of three years of data, from 2014-2016, spanning across 37 AP exams. To be eligible for this award, Districts must:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6 % in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and
- Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2016 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2014 percentage, *unless* the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

About the Advanced Placement Program

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies—with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both—while still in high school. Through AP courses in 34 subjects, each culminating in a rigorous exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue—skills that prepare them for college and beyond. Taking AP courses demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought the most rigorous curriculum available to them, and research indicates that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree than non-AP students. Each AP teacher's syllabus is evaluated and approved by faculty from some of the nation's leading colleges and universities, and AP Exams are developed and scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers. Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant credit, advanced placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores — more than 3,800 institutions worldwide annually receive AP scores. In the last decade AP participation and performance rates have nearly doubled. In May 2016, 2.6 million students representing more than 21,000 schools around the world, both public and nonpublic, took over 4.7 million AP Exams.

About the College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success—including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools. For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.