



**Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School**  
Advanced Placement (AP) Programme



# The Advanced Placement Program

**Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School**

**Ms. Teresa Castellarin  
Principal**

**Mr. Gary Laurin, Ms. Jennifer Peer, Mr. Michael Silvello  
Vice Principals**

**Ms. Alicia Castiglione  
AP Guidance Counsellor**

# Honouring the Land and Territory



**Lord our God,**

**In your wisdom and love you surround us with the  
mysteries of the universe,**

**Send your Spirit upon these students and fill them  
with your wisdom and blessings,**

**Grant that they may devote themselves to their  
studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of  
all knowledge.**



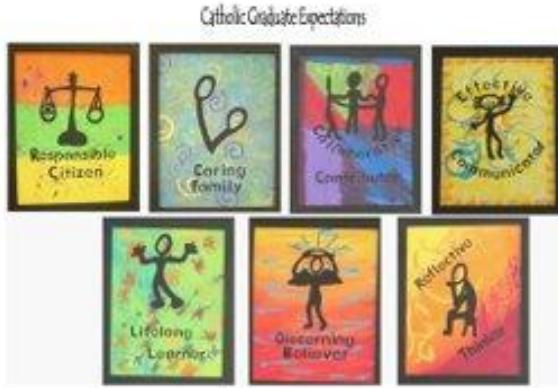
**We ask this through Christ our Lord - Amen.**

# Presentation Agenda

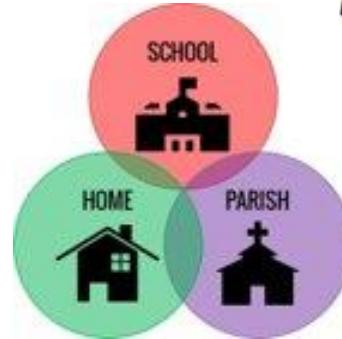
- ❖ Welcome and Opening Remarks
- ❖ The Advanced Placement Programme
- ❖ The AP Preparation Programme
- ❖ Alignment with Ontario Curriculum
- ❖ AP Exams and Submissions
- ❖ Post-Secondary Transitions
- ❖ AP Student Experiences
- ❖ Scholarships
- ❖ AP Application Process
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Frequently Asked Questions



# Greetings From Our Principal



Academic Excellence



Supporting Relationships  
Contributing  
Cooperating  
Equity/Care  
Participation  
Accepted  
Connected  
Safe  
Good  
Needed  
Welcomed  
Community  
Engaged  
Respectful  
Empathy  
Acceptance  
Respected  
Valued  
Positive  
Useful  
Meaningful

# Holy Trinity School Culture



- Catholic Caring Community
- Strong Home/School/Parish Relationships
- Parent Engagement and Student Voice
- High Academic Standards
- Extracurricular activities/Sports
- Wide range of leadership opportunities

# What is Advanced Placement?



- Advanced Placement (AP) is an internationally recognized program that allows students to enrich the Ontario Curriculum with the goal of achieving university accreditation while enrolled at Holy Trinity CSS.
- AP courses are offered in **Grades 9 – 12**.
- **Grade 12.** Courses are audited by the AP College Board and include writing AP exams in May and June of that year.

# What is Advanced Placement?



- Grade 9-12 enrichment courses
- Aim of courses: prepare students to successfully write standardized exams for potential first year university course credit
- For consideration in earning university credit students must achieve 3 or better out of 5 on an exam
- Overseen by the College Board, an internationally recognized U.S. non-profit membership association.

# What is AP Preparation?



- AP Preparation (Pre-AP) courses are an advanced series of courses for students to help begin preparing for university.
- The Pre-AP Program begins in Grade 9 with classes in which students study both the Ontario Curriculum and the Advanced Placement Curriculum.
- They are designed to be a rigorous preparation for AP courses in grade 12. The courses are intended to be challenging, but the benefits to students are well worth it.
- The program offers students the flexibility to select the number of pre-AP and AP classes that best serve their academic needs.



# Alignment of AP with the Ontario Curriculum



The AP curriculum and the Ontario secondary school curriculum overlap to a very large extent. Students in AP prep courses complete academic (9/10) or university (11/12) curriculum with appropriate extensions designed to prepare the student for writing the AP exams. Preparation for AP Exams is built into the program from Grade 9 through 12.

# Assessment and Evaluation

- ✓ Students will be evaluated according to the Ministry's assessment and evaluation policy documents.
- ✓ Students will be evaluated on the appropriate grade level curriculum expectations.
- ✓ Teachers of AP preparation and AP courses attend additional AP training.
- ✓ The course mark as determined above, will be multiplied by 1.05 to determine the mark that will be reported on the Provincial Report Card.

# AP Courses

AP courses provide:

- topics and material studied in greater depth
- enriched learning opportunities
- thought-provoking discussion
- interaction with other motivated learners
- The focus is not to create more work, but a different kind of work that challenges a student's higher order thinking skills.
- AP courses offer university level content to students at the Grade 12 level.

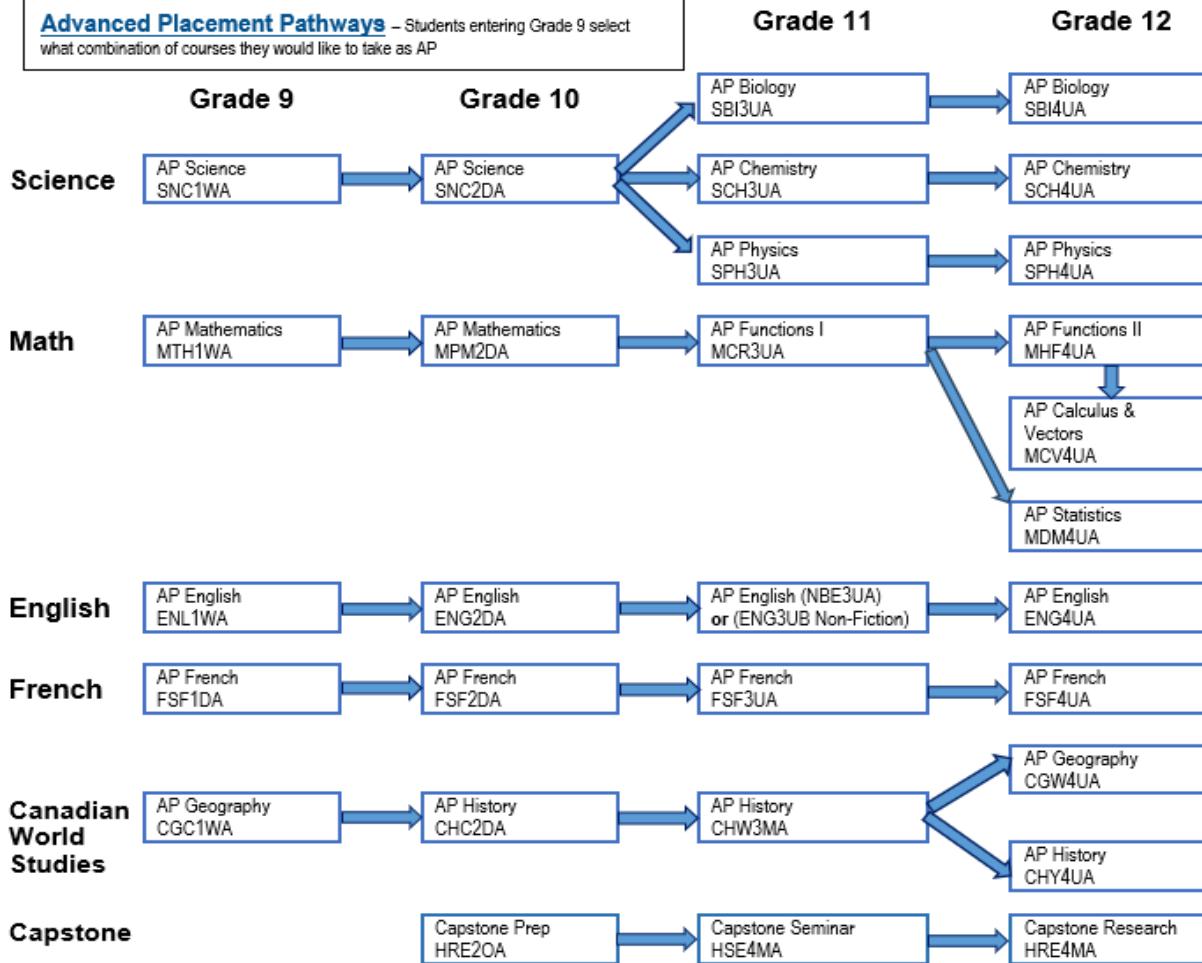


# The Grade 9 AP Preparation Program

Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
English	(ENL1WA)	English	(ENG2DA)	English	(ENG3UA)	English	(ENG4UA)
Math	(MTH1WA)	Math	(MPM2DA)	Functions	(MCR3UA)	Functions II	(MHF4UA)
Science	(SNC1WA)	Science	(SNC2DA)	Biology	(SBI3UA)	Calculus	(MCV4UA)
French	(FSF1DA)	French	(FSF2DA)	Chemistry	(SCH3UA)	Statistics	(MDM4UA)
Geography	(CGC1WA)	History	(CHC2DA)	Physics	(SPH3UA)	Biology	(SBI4UA)
Capstone Prep		French	(FSF3UA)	Chemistry	(SCH4UA)		
		History	(CHW3MA)	Physics	(SPH4UA)		
		Capstone Seminar	(HSE4MA)	French	(FSF4UA)		
				Geography	(CGW4UA)		
				History	(CHY4UA)		
				Capstone Research	(HRE4MA)		

- ❖ Eight courses are required to complete the grade 9 timetable

**Advanced Placement Pathways** – Students entering Grade 9 select what combination of courses they would like to take as AP



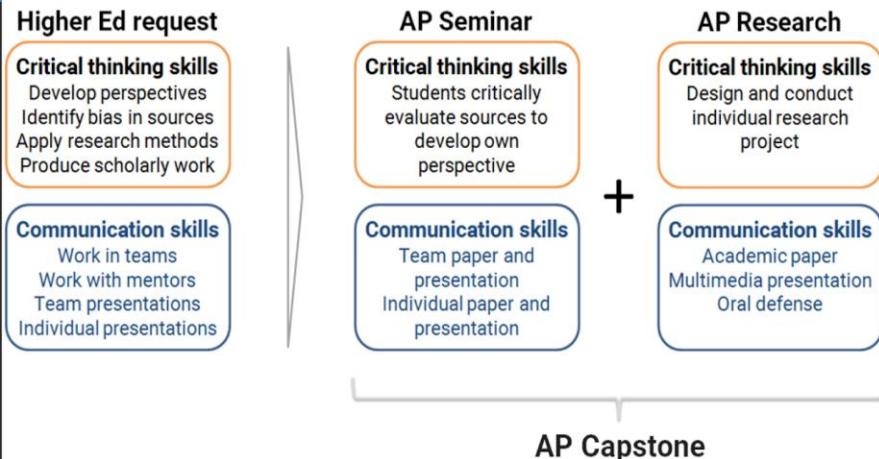
\*Entry into the AP Program after Grade 9 is possible for students by special application.

# The AP Capstone Program: Overview



- Holy Trinity is one of a handful of publicly funded schools to offer the **AP Capstone program**.
- AP Capstone was developed **at the request of higher education professionals** who saw a need for a systemic way for high school students to master key skills prior to University.
- Capstone courses develop students' skills in **research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting**.
- We work in collaboration with various universities to celebrate high school research.

# The AP Capstone Program: Courses of Study



## Grade 10: HRE2OA – AP Capstone Preparation

- Students use inquiry-based research and learning to explore social justice issues through the lens of the Catholic faith and identify how we are called to respond.

## Grade 11: HSE4MA – AP Seminar

- Students use Church teachings to guide their understanding of the theoretical, social, and historical underpinnings of various issues that exist in the world today through critical thinking and inquiry-based skills.

## Grade 12: HRE4MA – AP Research

- Students deeply explore an academic issue of individual interest through the lens of Catholic values, philosophies, and ideologies. They design, plan, and implement an investigation to address a research question.

# AP Exams / Submissions

## Grade 11

English Language & Composition	ENG3UB
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Capstone Seminar	HSE4MA
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## Grade 12

Geography	CGW4UA
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History	CGY4UA
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English Literature & Composition	ENG4UA
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French Language and Culture	FSF4UA
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Capstone Research (no exam, project submission)	HRE4MA
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Calculus AB	MHF4UA, MCV4UA
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Biology	SBI4UA
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Chemistry	SCH4UA
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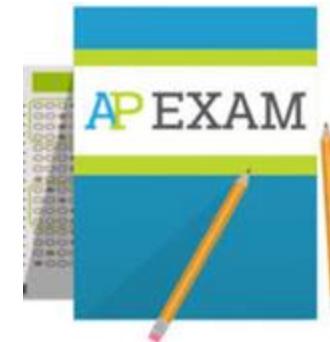
Physics	SPH4UA
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# AP Exams and Scores

- Written in May at Holy Trinity.
- Distributed by the College Board and administered by the school.
- Each AP exam mark is a weighted combination of the student's scores on the multiple choice section 50% and the open response section 50%.
- The final mark is reported on a 5-point scale:

Grade	Meaning
5	Extremely well qualified
4	Well qualified
3	Qualified
2	Possibly qualified
1	No recommendation



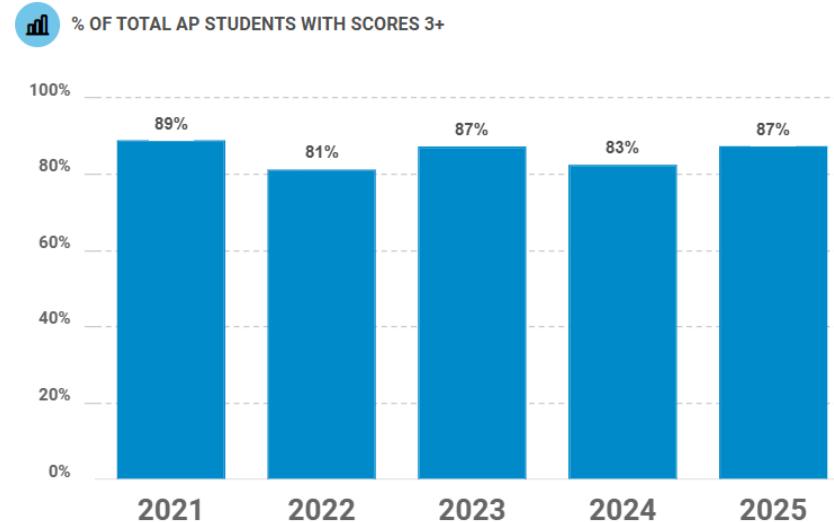
- The submission of AP exam results is determined by the student.

# Advanced Placement (AP) Credit Policies at Ontario Universities

Most universities have an AP credit policy that states:

- both the maximum number of university credits a student may earn through AP testing (often 2 – 3, but sometimes more)
- the minimum score required to earn a university credit (3+ out of 5).  
<https://www.ouinfo.ca/ib-ap-requirements>

## Holy Trinity Summary of Scores



# Characteristics of an AP student:



- Highly able learners looking to be challenged
- Students with a passion for learning
- Self-motivated learners with strong communication and analytical skills
- Passionate about learning
- Well organized with good time management skills
- High academic achiever

# Transitions for AP Students from High School to University

*“... research finds that AP students are more likely to persist to their second year of university, earn higher course grades in university, and ultimately earn university degrees, than similar students who didn’t take AP”*

– College Board (2020) “Driving Postsecondary Success Through AP at Canadian Universities”

## Testimonials

- Current HT AP students: Fernanda, Maria, Rhea, and Justin
- Former HT AP student: Oliver Bowes

# Scholarships

Scholarships totaling over \$100 000 awarded to HCDSB AP graduates over the years.

Various programs that our AP graduates have entered:

- Ottawa Life Sciences
- Waterloo Mechatronics
- Waterloo Biomedical
- Waterloo Mechanical Engineering
- Toronto (UTM) History
- Queens Commerce
- Queens Engineering
- McMaster Engineering
- American Universities and NCAA Athletics



# GR 9 AP APPLICATION

Holy Trinity's AP Application can be completed online between  
**November 10, 2025 and December 12, 2025**

**(This is for students who are currently in grade 8 and will be entering grade 9 in September 2026).**

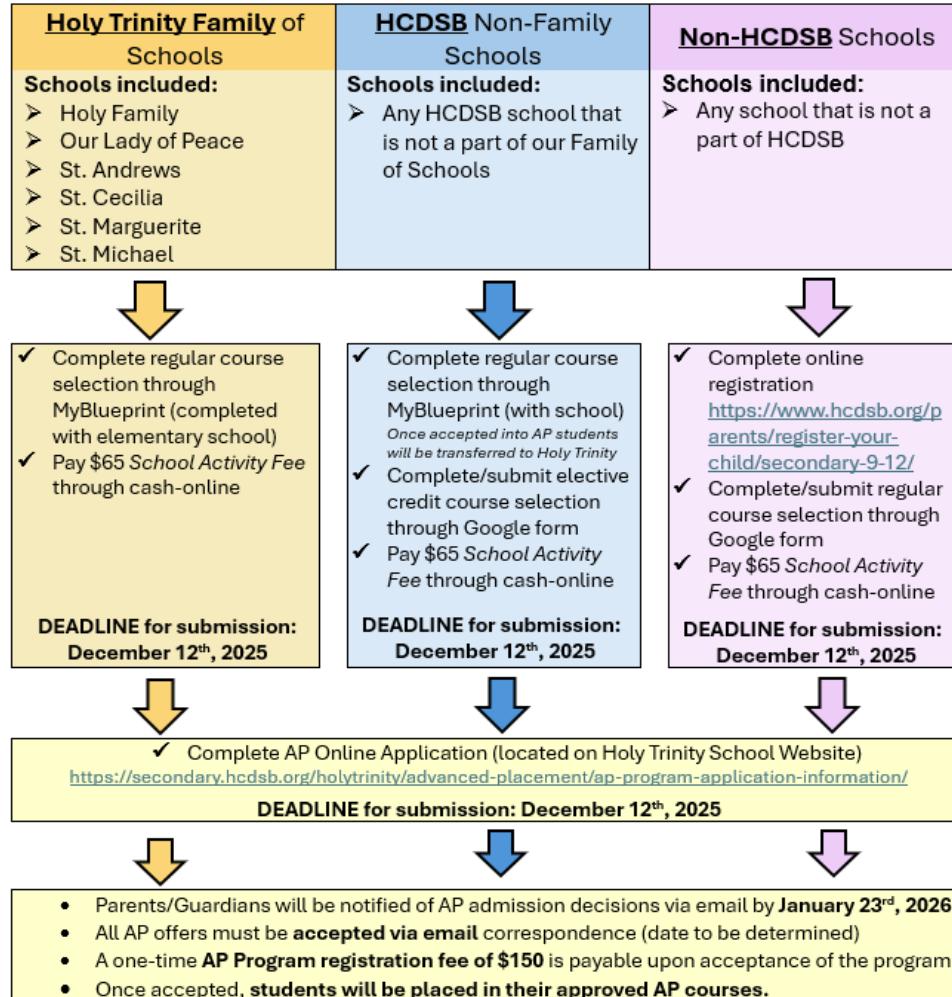
**In order to complete the AP online application you will require:**

- An active gmail account
- Your child's grade 7 final June report card scanned in a pdf file  
(You will also need access to a copy of this June report card as you complete the application)

The AP online application can be accessed on our school Website under Advanced Placement: <https://secondary.hcdsb.org/holytrinity/>

**\*Please note the Holy Trinity School Registration package is a SEPARATE application and must also be submitted by December 6th. Please see our school website for more information.**

# Holy Trinity Advanced Placement Registration Process



# Holy Trinity Registration Process

## Holy Trinity Family of Schools

- Holy Family • Our Lady of Peace
  - St. Andrew • St. Cecilia
  - St. Marguerite • St. Michael



## HCDSB Non-Family Schools

- St. Bernadette • St. Gregory
- St. Joan of Arc • St. John Paul
  - St. Mary • St. Matthew
  - St. Teresa • St. Dominic • St. Luke • St. Nicholas • St. Vincent



## Non HCDSB Schools (Public or Private Schools)



All Registration information also available on Holy Trinity School Website

# Admission Process and Required Documentation

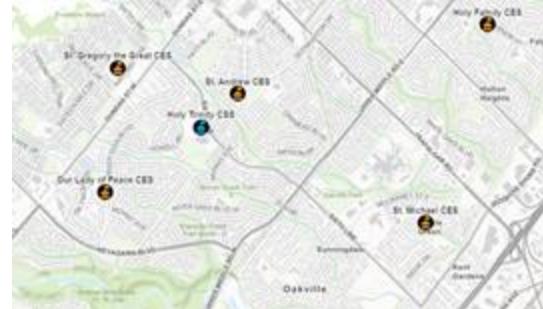
**AP Application due date: December 12th, 2025**

**AP Admission is based on:**

- Grade 7 June report card to be submitted with application.
- Evaluation of Learning Skills on Grade 7 June report card. These grades must be maintained in their Grade 8 year.
- Holy Trinity Registration Forms must be fully completed and submitted.
- Parents will be notified of admission decision via email on January 23, 2026.

# Cross Boundary

- **Holy Trinity accepts cross-boundary students who are accepted and remain enrolled in the AP program**
- **Cross boundary students who withdraw from the AP program will be directed to their home school**
- **Cross boundary siblings of AP students cannot attend Holy Trinity unless also registered in the AP program.**
- **Visit <https://schoolplanning.hcdsb.org/find-your-school/> to check if you live within our school boundary.**



# Transportation

- The AP program is a specialized optional program.
- As per HCDSB Policy 1-04: Transportation is only provided for students living within the Holy Trinity boundaries who qualify for bussing according to board policies.
- As per HCDSB Policy 1-04: Cross Boundary students attending the AP program DO NOT require a cross boundary form.
- **Cross Boundary AP students are responsible for their own transportation.**
- Students in a specialized program who “OPT OUT” of the AP program will be required to return to their home school.
- Visit [www.haltonbus.ca](http://www.haltonbus.ca) if you have any questions related to bussing..



# For Additional Information

Visit the College Board website for Canadian AP Schools:

<http://apcanada.collegeboard.org/>

- A list of Canadian schools participating in AP programs. (i.e. U of T, UW, Western, Queens)
- Data regarding the participation of students throughout Canada.
- Research with respect to student achievement and AP.
- AP course outlines and resources.
- AP exam descriptions.

**AP courses are recognized**

- ✓ by 90% of post-secondary institutions in North America.
- ✓ by over 600 universities in over 55 countries around the world

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Are there any fees associated with the AP program?

There is a one-time \$150 fee to join AP at Holy Trinity (regardless of how many AP courses you enroll in). There is no additional cost to parents other than the cost of writing AP exams in grade 12.

## 2. How much homework can a student expect as part of the AP program?

The short answer is that there is generally the same amount of homework for students in AP Prep/AP as in an academic program.

## 3. Can I join the AP Program in grade 10?

There are limited spaces available in grade 10. Applicants will be assessed on an individual basis with feedback from their grade 9 teachers and report card.

## 4. Can I be a part of both the Extended French and AP Programs?

Yes, but students who chose Extended French, cannot select AP Geography and French as these courses are bundled in the Extended French Certificate Program.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **5. How do you decide how students are admitted to the AP program?**

A committee reviews the applications and makes a determination. The decision is based on a combination of learning skills and level four marks. There is no entrance test for the AP program.

## **6. When is the deadline to submit applications?**

The application for Grade 9 is due December 12, 2025

## **7. How many students do you let into the program in each grade?**

We receive many applications for the AP program. Each application is reviewed independently. We accept all students who meet the application criteria

# Questions?

If you have any further questions with respect to our AP program please contact us at [htap@hcdsb.org](mailto:htap@hcdsb.org)

If you would like to receive **general Holy Trinity school** information please scan the QR code.

\*Please note that all AP specific information with respect to your child's application will be communicated via the email you provide on the AP Application.

