AP Psychology Course Description:
Advanced Placement Psychology is offered to the serious student who desires the challenge of a college-level course in high school. The course provides a scientific study of the origins and development of human behavior. The historical development of psychology and the major theories of psychology are presented, as well as the methods used to study behavioral questions. Emphasis is placed on scientific reasoning, and extensive reading and writing are required. Students are expected to take the advanced placement examination in May. College credit may be granted, subject to the requirements of the college or university. Advanced Placement Psychology is a year long elective credit course offered to students in grades eleven and twelve.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT
“The study of psychology, I believe, enhances our abilities to restrain intuition with critical thinking, judgmentalism with compassion, and illusion with understanding.”

(David Myers, Author of Psychology, 9th edition)
Producing critical thinkers is the primary goal of our Advanced Placement Psychology course. What is a critical thinker? “Critical thinkers are open-minded. They can live with uncertainty and ambiguity. They enjoy mysteries, avoid easy compartmentalizations of the world, and resist black-white analyses of complex issues.” (Myers, Psychology) In the study of psychology, it sometimes seems there are more questions than answers. One way to get a handle on the vast amount of information explored in the course is to ensure each student possesses a foundation of psychological terminology. Your summer assignment is to get a jump on the vocabulary utilized for relevant discussion in the course. You may use online resources, dictionaries, textbooks, or other sources at your local library to define the attached psychological terms. Many students are often surprised by the amount of biology and statistics present in the AP Psychology curriculum. Completing the summer vocabulary list ensures there are no misconceptions about the nature of the course in September. Psychology is truly a social science.

Mr. Chris Jacobs: chris.jacobs@vbschools.com

Enjoy defining the terms. Have a good summer and I look forward to greeting each of you in the fall.

1. absolute threshold
2. accommodation
3. acronyms
4. action potential
5. activation synthesis hypothesis
6. acuity
7. adaptation-level phenomenon
8. adrenal glands epinephrine/adrenalin
9. afterimage effect
10. agonist
11. algorithms
12. all-or-none response
13. anorexia nervosa
14. antagonist
15. anterograde amnesia retrograde amnesia
16. anvil
17. applied research
18. approach/approach
19. approach/avoidance
20. arousal theory
21. auditory canal
22. auditory cortex
23. auditory nerve
24. autonomic
25. availability heuristic
26. avoidance/avoidance
27. axon
28. babbling
29. back-masking
30. basal metabolic rate
31. basic research
32. basilar membrane
33. behavior genetics
34. behavioral medicine
35. belief bias
36. belief perseverence
37. bias
38. binocular cues
39. biofeedback
40. bipolar cells
41. blind spot
42. brainstem
43. bulimia nervosa
44. case study
45. catharsis
46. cell body
47. central nervous system
48. cerebellum
49. Chomsky’s concept of overgeneralization
50. chromosome
51. chronological age
52. chunking
53. clairvoyance
54. closure
55. cochlea
56. cocktail party phenomenon
57. cognitive map
70. color blindness
71. conduction deafness
72. cones
73. confabulation
74. confirmation bias
75. confounding variables
76. connectedness
77. content validity
78. context effects
79. context effects
80. continuity
81. continuous vs. intermittent schedules
82. control group
83. convergence
84. convolutions
85. cornea
86. corpus callosum
87. correlation coefficient
88. creativity
89. criterion validity
90. CT
91. decay
92. déjà vu effect
93. demand characteristics
94. dendrite
95. dependent variable
96. depth perception
97. difference threshold just-noticeable difference
98. dissociation
99. DNA
100. double-blind technique
101. Down’s syndrome
102. drive-reduction theory
103. eardrum/
104. echoic memories
105. EEG
106. EEG
107. eidetic memory
108. electrical stimulation
109. episodic (flashbulb)
110. eugenics
111. excitatory
112. executive monkeys
113. experiment
114. experimental group
115. experimenter bias
116. externals
117. extrasensory perception
118. extrinsic motivation
119. factor analysis
120. false consensus effect
121. far-sightedness
122. feature detectors
123. feel-good do-good phenomenon
124. figure/ground
125. fixation
126. fixed interval
127. fixed ratio
128. Flynn effect
129. fovea
130. framing effect
131. frequency theory
132. functional fixedness
133. ganglion cells
134. gate-control theory
135. gender identity
136. gender roles
137. gender schema theory
138. gender typed
139. gene complexes
140. General Adaptation Syndrome
141. generalizability
142. genome
143. g-factor
144. glial cells
145. glucose
146. gonads (estrogen, testosterone)
147. grammar
148. hammer
149. Hawthorne effect
150. heritability
151. heuristics
152. hidden observer
153. hierarchies
154. hierarchy of needs
155. hindsight bias
156. homeostasis
157. hue
158. hypothalamus
159. hypothesis
160. iconic memory
161. identical (monozygotic)
162. illusions (Mueller-Lyer, Ames room, Ponzo, Poggendorf);
163. illusory correlation
211. motor/efferent
212. MRI
213. myelin sheath
214. narcolepsy
215. natural selection/mutation
216. naturalistic observation
217. near-sightedness
218. nerve
219. nerve(sensory/neural) deafness
220. neural network
221. neurotransmitters
222. neutral stimulus
223. night terrors
224. noradrenalin
225. norepinephrine/
226. occipital lobe
227. olfactory bulb
228. olfactory nerve
229. one-word stage
230. operational definitions
231. opiate
232. Opponent-process theory
233. optic nerve
234. overconfidence effect
235. overjustification effect
236. pain, pressure, warm, cold
237. pancreas (insulin)
238. parapsychology
239. parietal lobes
240. peg-word
241. peripheral
242. phantom limb pain
243. pheromones
244. phi phenomenon
245. Phineas Gage
246. phonemes
247. pinna
248. pituitary gland
249. place theory
250. placebo
251. plasticity
252. population
253. post-hypnotic amnesia
254. post-hypnotic suggestion
255. precognition
256. predictive validity
257. priming
258. proactive interference retroactive interference
259. procedural,
260. prosocial behavior
261. proximity
262. psychokinesis
263. psychophysiological illnesses
264. pupil
265. random assignment/ randomization
266. random sample
267. range
268. recall
269. recognition
270. reflex
271. refractory period
272. reification
273. relative clarity/aerial perspective
274. relative deprivation
275. relative height/elevation
276. relative motion/motion parallax
277. relative size
278. REM rebound
279. replicate
280. representativeness heuristic
281. repression
282. respondent behavior elicit
283. resting potential
284. retina
285. retinal disparity
286. retrieval cues
287. reuptake
288. rods
289. rote rehearsal elaborative rehearsal
290. sample
291. scatterplot
292. schema
293. semantics
294. semi-circular canals in the ear
295. sensory cortex
296. sensory memory
297. sensory/afferent
298. serial position effect
299. serotonin
300. set point
301. sexuality
302. shape, size, light, color, brightness constancies
303. shaping/successive approximations
304. short-term memory
305. signal-detection theory
306. similarity
307. Skinner box
308. sleep apnea
309. sleep spindles
310. social learning theory
311. sodium
312. sound localization
313. source amnesia
314. spacing effect
315. split-half reliability
316. stages of sleep paradoxical sleep
317. standard deviation
318. Stanford-Binet test
319. state-dependent memory
320. Sternberg’s intelligences (analytical, creative, practical)
321. stirrup
322. stroboscopic motion
323. summation
324. survey
325. sympathetic parasympathetic
326. synapse
327. syntax
328. taste aversion
329. taste buds
330. telegraphic speech
331. telepathy
332. temperament
333. temporal lobe
334. terminal buttons/ synaptic knobs
335. testosterone
336. test-retest reliability
337. texture gradient
338. THC
339. theory
340. three primary colors of light
341. threshold
342. thyroid (thyroxin)
343. trial and error
344. two-word stage
345. tympanic membrane
346. types of brain waves
347. types of twins: fraternal (dizygotic)
348. unconscious
349. variable interval
350. variable ratio
351. ventromedial hypothalamus
352. vestibular sac
353. visual cliff
354. visual cortex
355. Washoe
356. wavelength
357. Weber’s law
358. Whorf’s theory of linguistic determinism hypothesis (linguistic relativity)
359. wording effect
360. X and Y chromosomes
361. Young-Helmholtz Trichromatic theory