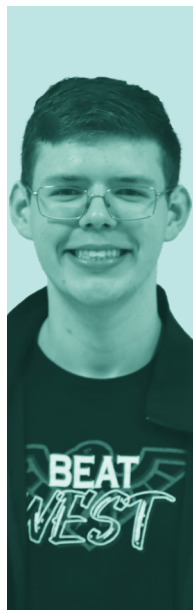
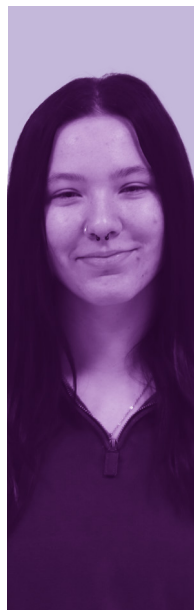
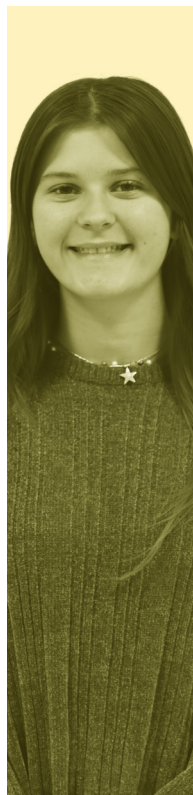
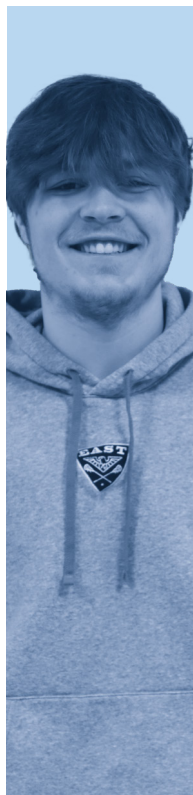
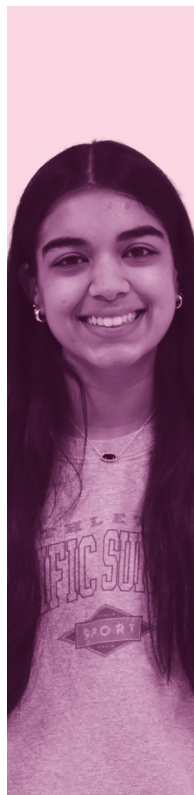
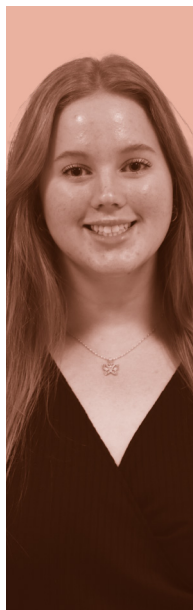


STAFF EDITORIAL



From left: Ava Huening, Brendan Wright, Ria Malhi, Colin Kunz, Emily Henderson, Jaedyn Armbruster, Kyle Smith

The Editorial Board consists of the editors-in-chief, the business managers, the in-depth editor, and two rotating positions for other Spark staffers included to expand our perspective.

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The Editorial Board voted 5-2 that between Advanced Placement courses and College Credit Plus courses, Advanced Placement is the more beneficial option.

photography **colin kunz**

5-2

As the Lakota curriculum grows to include more and more College Credit Plus (CCP) courses available to students, the benefits seem too good to be true. With no cost to students and credit that is not solely contingent upon an exam, the allure of CCP classes draws in many East students. However, when compared to Advanced Placement (AP) offerings, it is clear that CCP is not going to cut it for every student. Between the two offerings, the Spark Editorial Board believes that in the long run, AP courses are more beneficial to students than CCP courses.

Primarily, the biggest advantage of an AP over CCP is its standardized and nationally recognized curriculum. With central organization from the College Board, AP offerings demonstrate a consistent and expertly curated course of study that is uniform across the nation. On the other hand, CCP offerings do not follow a standardized curriculum that extends beyond the sole college that is sponsoring the CCP class. While this may provide teachers with more flexibility, the heavy reliance on community colleges instead of more notable universities for offering CCP credit within Lakota may not prepare students

for university as adequately as AP courses do.

Just as the knowledge taught in CCP classes is not universal, the credit offered by CCP classes is not universally accepted either. While nearly all universities across the country award credit for a passing score on an AP exam, there is no requirement that out-of-state institutions accept Ohio's CCP credit. While a majority of East students stay in-state, this drawback can be a deal-breaker for many students, especially those wishing to pursue universities outside of Ohio. Additionally, AP courses hold a much higher reputation than CCP. AP is more widely recognized and known for its rigor, whereas CCP is more limited in its reputation as it is still growing. In terms of college admissions, AP courses certainly have the advantage.

In addition to the standardization, acceptance, and reputation of the courses, the Editorial Board also considered the inherent goal of coursework: teaching students the knowledge of the course in an effective and comprehensive manner. With their undeniable rigor and challenging concepts, AP courses have a strong ability to inculcate knowledge for devoted students. By contrast, because CCP courses largely lack this

rigor and do not award credit through an exam, it is more difficult for students to master tough concepts. Additionally, there is much more room for cheating in a CCP course as students need not worry about passing a final exam to earn credit.

Ultimately, while the Spark Editorial Board believes that the reputation and rigor of AP courses outweigh the benefits of CCP courses, the Board recognizes that class offerings are not one-size-fits-all. For some, an AP-focused route may prove to be the most prudent. For others, CCP may be the more effective option. Some students may find a mix of the two to be the best option, and other students may find that they don't want to take AP or CCP courses at all. As the debate between AP and CCP continues, the Spark Editorial Board agrees that two principles must remain constant: each student must pursue the route that is best for their goals, and both AP and CCP classes must remain accessible to do so. •

For in-depth reporting on CCP offerings, read Grace Callahan's coverage, found on page ##.