



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The purpose of the AP course in macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students explore topics generally covered in college courses.

This course will use a college-level text book and supplemental readings, documents, essays, and books on specific topics and themes.

Extra time is required on the part of AP students for class preparation, outside reading, and completion of assignments. AP courses provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory courses. Students who take Economics AP are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in the spring.

1st 6 Weeks Overview

Unit 1: Basic Economic Concepts

A macroeconomics course introduces students to fundamental economic concepts such as scarcity and opportunity costs. Students understand the distinction between absolute and comparative advantage, and apply the principle of comparative advantage to determine the basis on which mutually advantageous trade can take place between individuals and/or countries, and to identify comparative advantage from differences in opportunity costs. Other basic concepts that are explored include the functions performed by an economic system, and the way the tools of supply and demand are used to analyze the workings of a free market economy. The course should also introduce the concept of the business cycle to give students an overview of economic fluctuations and to highlight the dynamics of unemployment, inflation, and economic growth. Coverage of these concepts provides students with the foundation for a thorough understanding of macroeconomic concepts and issues.

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Unit 2: Economic Indicators and the Business Cycle

Students will learn how the economy works with a model of the circular flow of inputs and outputs and the money that pays for them. Students will also explore how economists assess the performance of the economy with an introduction to measures of economic performance and the business cycle. These concepts will be revisited in different contexts and models in the units that follow

Celebrate Freedom will take place during the 1st 6 weeks and the students will be exposed to the intent, meaning and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution including the Bill of Rights, in their historical contexts.

Throughout the 1st 6 weeks grading period, student knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways, such as:

- Thinking Maps and Graphic Organizers
- Collaborative Small and Large Group Discussions
- Graphing
- Critical Listening and Note Taking/Summarizing
- Critical Questioning
- Formative and Summative Assessments
- Released Free Response Questions
- Project based research/projects

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student. We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure academic success.

Respectfully,

AP Economics Teachers