



# Advanced Academics 101

# Middle School Overview



# Middle School Pre-AP Courses

- ❑ Middle School Pre AP courses are intended to appropriately challenge high-achieving learners and prepare students for future academic pursuits, including the high school Advanced Placement courses.
- ❑ The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments and to complete a substantial amount of work outside of class. CBA assessments (district testing) will also be more rigorous and challenging in the Pre AP classes.
- ❑ Students are encouraged to take Pre AP courses that are appropriate to their interests and academic strengths. It is important that parents have discussions with their student about appropriate placements and an understanding of the commitment and higher expectations involved with a Pre AP class.

# Middle School Pre-AP Courses

- ▣ If a student enrolls in a middle school Pre AP course the student is required to stay in that class for the first 6 weeks of the school year. If the student is struggling, they will be expected to create a plan including attending regular tutorials in order to help them to master the content. If at the end of the grading period, the student, the teacher and the parents agree that a change to on-level is necessary, as a last resort the student will be changed to on-level. This schedule change will often impact other portions of a student's schedule as well.
- ▣ It is always our goal that the student remain in the class and invest the time necessary to rise to the challenge. This is an important commitment to consider when completing registration paperwork. That is why we encourage you to look at your student's previous grades, achievement and test scores, while also considering their motivation, organization skills, independence, time commitment and willingness to go above and beyond current expectations.

# Middle School Pre AP Course Offerings

## ▣ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- ▣ Pre AP ILA
- ▣ Pre AP Math

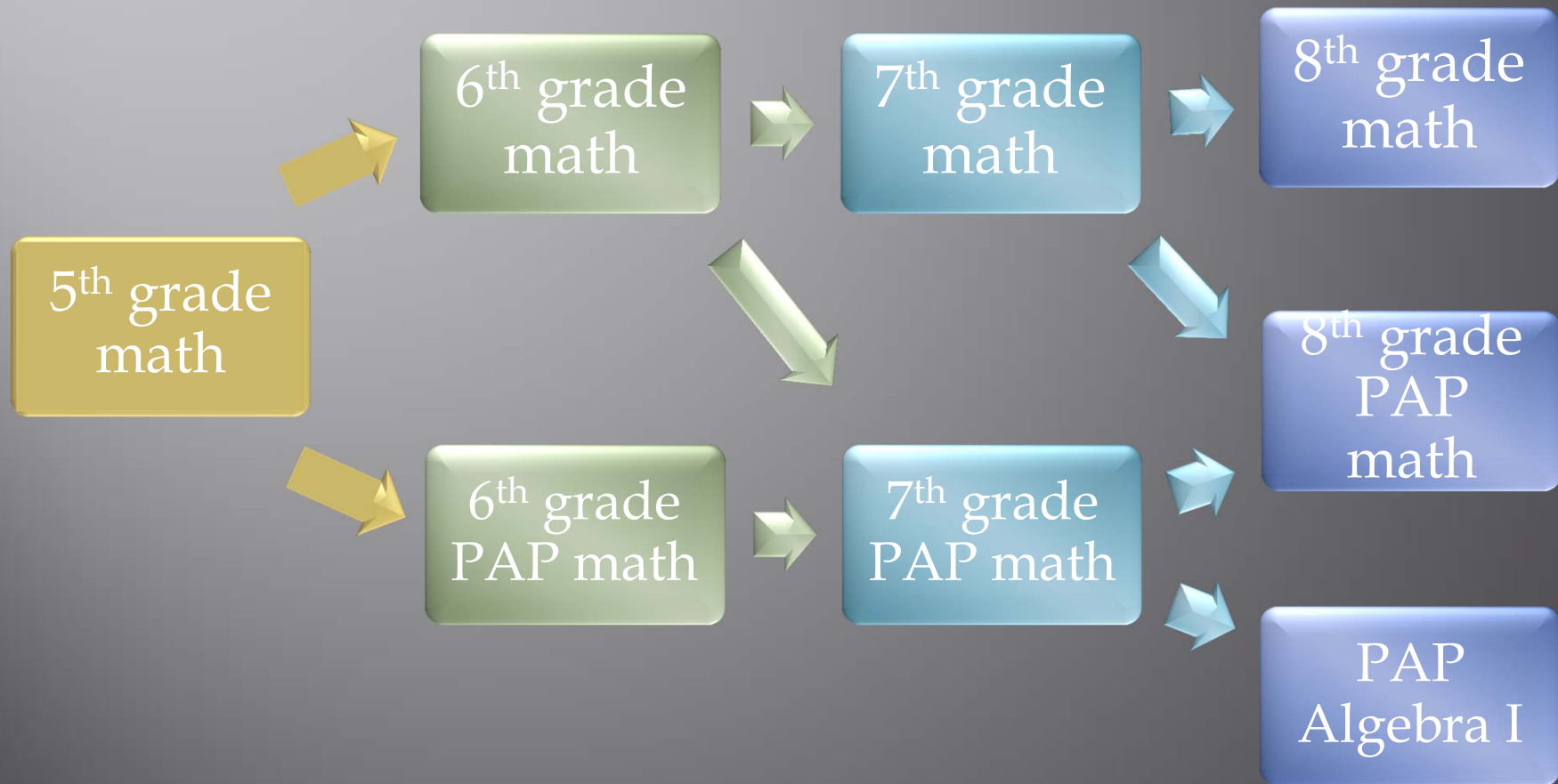
## ▣ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- ▣ Pre AP ILA
- ▣ Pre AP Math
- ▣ Pre AP Science

## ▣ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- ▣ Pre AP ILA
- ▣ Pre AP 8<sup>th</sup> Math
- ▣ Pre AP Algebra 1
- ▣ Pre AP Science

# Middle School Math Courses





# Pre-AP Math vs. On-Level Math

## Middle School

<b>Pre-AP</b>	<b>On-Level</b>
Grade-level TEKS are covered at a faster pace and more rigorous level; Note: 5 <sup>th</sup> grade math is 90 minutes, when 6 <sup>th</sup> grade math is 45 (time cut in half)	Grade-level TEKS
In addition to daily problem solving, a challenging problem solving component is incorporated into weekly instruction	Grade-level appropriate problem solving incorporated into daily instruction
Writing component coupled with two oral presentations are linked to problem solving	
CBA content is aligned to STAAR but requires considerably more application at a much deeper level	CBA content and level of difficulty is aligned to STAAR
7 <sup>th</sup> grade curriculum currently incorporates exposure to 8 <sup>th</sup> grade material to help prepare students to test out of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade math and take PAP Alg I as an 8 <sup>th</sup> grader	

# Pre-AP Science vs. On-Level Science Middle School

<b>Pre-AP</b>	<b>On-Level</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
Science Fair (Independent Research and Data Collection, Honor's Level Topic (no cookbook ideas), time outside of class at least 6 to 8 weeks, Proposal of topic, acceptance of topic, research and historical background on topic, research paper, Final lab write up with project display.	No Science Fair Required
Flipped Classroom-more independent learning	Flipped Classroom-more independent learning
Inquiry based labs, designing own labs over topic	Guided labs
4 to 6 lab write-ups /year	Lab write ups (2-4 year)
Open ended test questions for Pre-AP (short answer)	Multiple Choice Tests



# Pre-AP ILA vs. On-Level ILA Middle School

<b>Pre-AP</b>	<b>On-Level</b>
Summer reading assignment which is incorporated into the first 6 weeks of the school year and is used as a springboard for future writing and analytical assignments.	None
Students are expected to have previously mastered basic reading comprehension and literary analysis	Focus on reading comprehension and basic literary analysis
Writing assignments will be graded with an expectation of greater depth and rigor	Writing assignments will focus more on grammar and basic writing skills
Writing with progressive sophistication and variety of genres	
Active participation in class discussions in group projects	
Oral interviews/presentations	

# High School Overview



*Welcome  
future*

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL

*Knights*



# Frisco ISD Advanced Course Offerings

## PAP Courses

English I  
English II  
World Geography  
Biology  
Physics  
Chemistry  
Spanish II  
Spanish III  
French II  
French III  
Geometry  
Algebra II  
Pre-Calculus

## AP Courses

English Language and Composition  
English Literature and Composition  
World History  
US History  
US Government  
Macroeconomics  
European History  
Biology  
Human Geography  
Physics B  
Physics C Mechanics  
Physics C Electricity and Magnetism  
Environmental Science  
Spanish Literature  
Spanish Language  
Art History  
Studio Art 2-D  
Studio Art 3-D  
Studio Art Drawing  
Computer Science  
Chemistry

Calculus AB  
Calculus BC  
Statistics  
Music Theory  
Psychology  
French Language

**New:**

AP Capstone

Program:

-AP Seminar

-AP Research

# What are the admission requirements?

- ▣ Any student can take these courses, but we do want to find the “right fit” for your child, whether it be all Pre-AP/AP, all on-level, or a combination of the two.
- ▣ Once a student sits in a Pre-AP/AP course, they are committed to completing the first six weeks at the Pre-AP/AP level. At that time, students are allowed to drop the course to an on-level section.

# Why take AP?

- ❑ Excellent preparation for college.
- ❑ Helpful for college admissions- especially needed for elite and highly selective colleges. They look for this!
- ❑ Possible college credit earned through the AP exams.
- ❑ Additional GPA points towards class rank.

# Rank in Class Policy

Rank in class, honor graduate status, valedictorian and salutatorian determination shall be based on a weighted grade point average (GPA) system.

Grades will be weighted according to the level of the course.

Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders will not receive a GPA and Rank until after the first Fall semester at Independence!

<u>AP/PAP</u>	<u>Dual Credit</u>	<u>On-Level</u>	<u>Grade Point</u>
95	100		5.5
94	99		5.4
93	98		5.3
92	97		5.2
91	96		5.1
90	95	100	5.0
89	94	99	4.9
88	93	98	4.8
87	92	97	4.7
86	91	96	4.6
85	90	95	4.5
84	89	94	4.4



# Top 10% Rule (end of junior year)

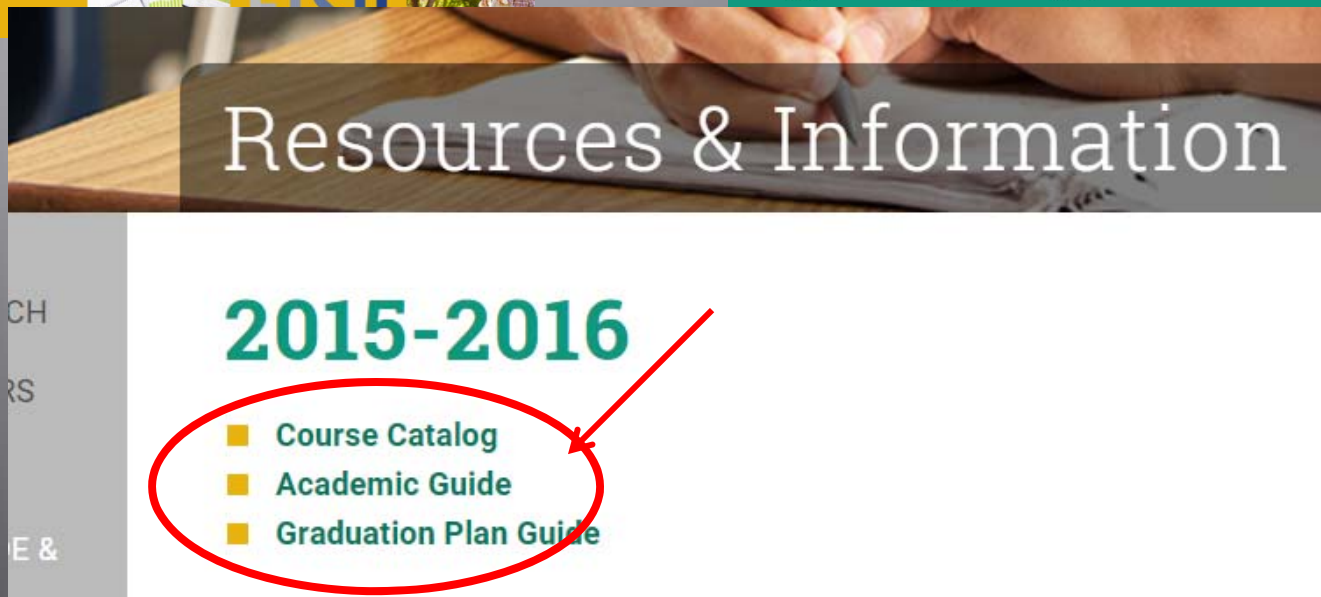
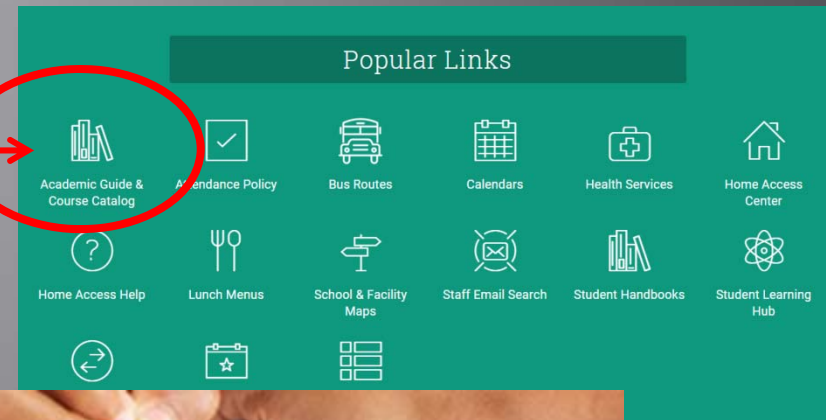
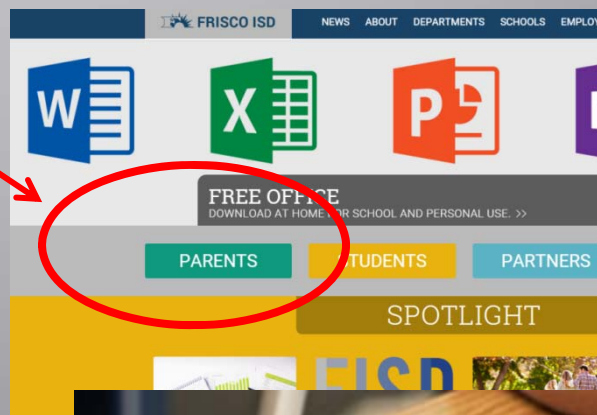
- Class Rank and GPA are used to determine if a student is in the “Top 10%” of the class.
- Students who are in the top 10% of their class are automatically accepted into Texas public colleges. (UT Austin is now top 8% for Fall 2016)
- **“Freshman grades count!”** Start strong and do your best from your first day of high school.” For admissions purposes, rank at the end of junior year dictates the top 10% of the class.

# How do I know if my child should take a Pre-AP or AP class?

- ▣ Ask your child's current teacher.
- ▣ Look at standardized test scores (PLAN, PSAT, STAAR etc. ) (CogAT for middle school consideration) Is he/she scoring in the upper range?
- ▣ You know your child...be realistic. If you are still "managing" his life (constant reminders of deadlines, making him redo poor work, etc), he may not be ready for the rigors of the program.
- ▣ Also take into consideration how many outside activities in which your child is already participating.

# Academic & Course Catalog

The Academic & Course Catalogs are online! You can find the complete 2016-17 Academic Guide and Course Catalog online on the Frisco ISD website at:



# QUESTIONS