



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

▣ 6th Grade

- ▣ Pre AP ILA
- ▣ Pre AP Math

▣ 7th Grade

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

▣ 8th Grade

- ▣ Pre AP ILA
- ▣ Pre AP 8th Math
- ▣ Pre AP Algebra 1
- ▣ PAP Geometry
- ▣ Pre AP Science

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

Pre-AP	On-Level
7 th & 8 th Grade	7 th & 8 th Grade
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

Pre-AP	On-Level
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
Late work is not accepted in 7 th and 8 th grade	Maximum grade of 70 on assignments that are one day late and 50 on assignments that are two days late
Writing with progressive sophistication and variety of genres	
Active participation in class discussions in group projects	
Oral interviews/presentations	

Pre-AP Math vs. On-Level Math

Middle School

Pre-AP	On-Level
Grade-level TEKS are covered at a deep and rigorous level	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 th grade curriculum currently incorporates exposure to 8 th grade material to help prepare students to test out of 8 th grade math and take PAP Alg I as an 8 th grader	

High School Overview



*Welcome
future
Knights*



Goals...

- ▣ It's not just about graduation!
- ▣ We want to prepare your child to become an independent, responsible, contributing member of society.
- ▣ This is your opportunity to start giving them the freedom to take ownership of their learning and start teaching them to become self-advocates.
- ▣ We want you involved in this process...it is a team approach!

Graduation Requirements

A student needs 26 credits in order to graduate. A half-credit is earned each semester for each class passed with a 70 or above average.

Recommended Program

(changes still in discussion at State Board of Education)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Required Courses</u>
English	4	English 1, 2, 3, 4
Math	4	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, TBD
Science	4	Bio, Chemistry, Physics, TBD
Social Studies	4	W. Geo, W. Hist, U.S. History, Government & Economics
Foreign Language	2	Spanish, French, American Sign Language
P.E.	1	P.E., Athletics, Fall Band, Drill, Cheer, Colorguard
Health	.5	Health, Health Science
Speech	.5	Communications Applications
Fine Arts	1	Art, Theater Arts, Choir, Band, Dance, Orchestra, DGA, Elements of Floral Des.
Technology	1	BIM, Comp. Sci, DIM, DGA, Web Tech., Comp. Maint., Yearbook , Newspaper, Broadcast
Electives	<u>4</u>	Electives are classes you choose.
Total	26	

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.

Rank and GPA will be awarded each year in September and January.

<u>AP/PAP</u>	<u>Dual</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Grade Point</u>
100			6.0
99			5.9
98			5.8
97			5.7
96			5.6
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

Top 10% Rule

- ❑ Class Rank and GPA are used to determine if you are in the “Top 10%” of your class.
- ❑ Students who are in the top 10% of their class are automatically accepted into Texas public colleges. (UT is now top 7%)
- ❑ Start strong and do your best from your first day in a high school level course (whether that be your Freshman year or high school courses you choose to take in middle school). For admissions purposes, rank at the close of junior year dictates the top 10% of the class.

STAAR End of Course Exams (EOCs)

- English I & II
- Algebra I
- Biology
- US History

What is AP?

- AP stands for Advanced Placement .
- AP courses are COLLEGE LEVEL classes.
- All AP classes across the nation teach the same curriculum.
- Colleges understand the rigors of the program and look favorably on the AP program.
- Students have the option of taking an AP exam in May in order to earn college credit.
- The exams are graded on a 1-5 scale. Most colleges award college credit(s) based on the score achieved on the AP exam. Typically, a 3 or higher will earn college credit.
- Every institution has its own policy regarding the score needed for credit to be issued.

What is Pre-AP?

- Pre-AP courses prepare students for AP course work , as well as college level course work. They are designed to challenge middle and high school students, to engage them in active, high-level learning, thereby ensuring the development of skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in college and in their careers.

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

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.

What type of student is a good match for this program?

- ▣ Motivated and hard working
- ▣ Confident, independent reader
- ▣ Organized and meets deadlines
- ▣ Has the ability to analyze information and strong critical thinking skills
- ▣ Strong reading, writing, or math skills depending on the content area
- ▣ Goes above and beyond teacher expectations currently; seeks out challenges and new concepts
- ▣ Enjoys learning and wants to be in the class
- ▣ Has the time to commit to the course requirements (studying, reading, etc...)
- ▣ Has the ability to listen and participate in a thoughtful exchange of ideas
- ▣ Able to accept and to offer questions for which there are no clear answers

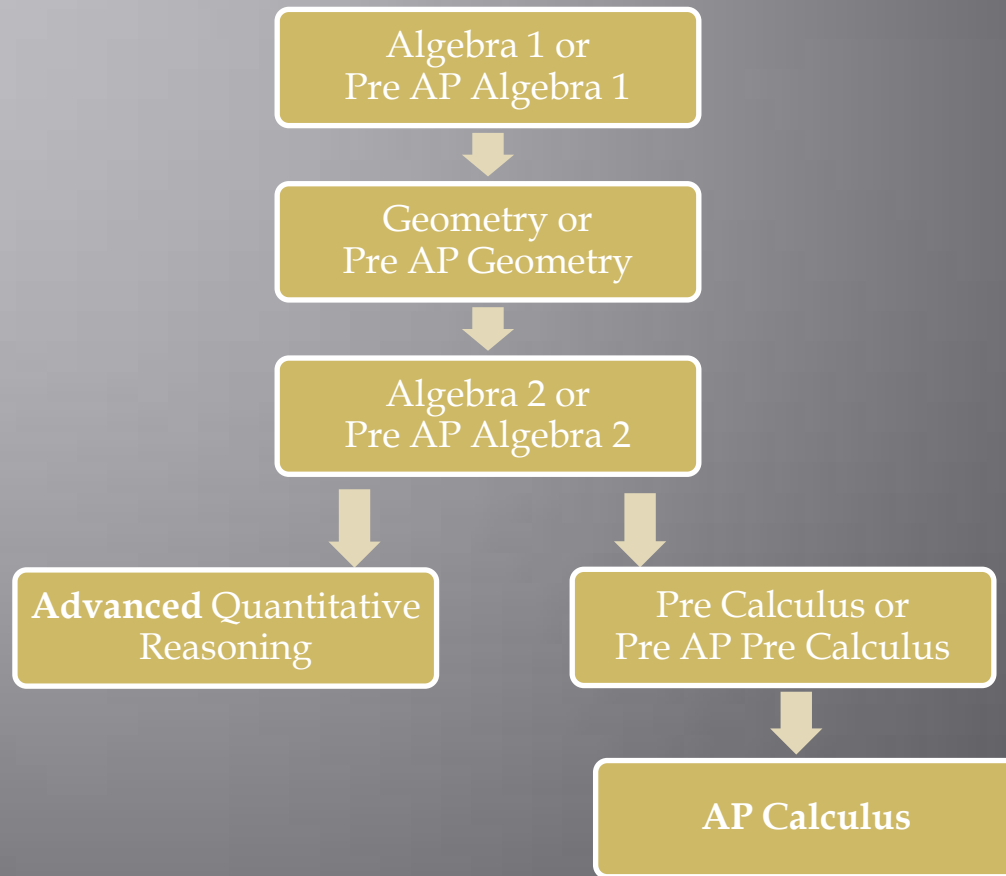
How do I know if my child should take a Pre-AP or AP class?

- ❑ 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.

Additional Academic Options

- ❑ FISD summer school offers several courses for advancement which gives the students the ability to take additional elective courses throughout high school.
- ❑ Credit By Exams (CBEs) and Correspondence Courses are also options for advancement.
- ❑ Beware of getting too far ahead of the game! Colleges want to see mature students who have fully completed 4 years of high school (including a course in each of the 4 core areas of English, math, science, and social studies during their senior year).

High School Math Sequence



Dual Credit

- ▣ FISD offers the following senior level Dual Credit courses through Collin College:
- ▣ English IV
- ▣ Government/Economics
- ▣ College Algebra (does not count toward state math requirements)
- ▣ Dual Credit courses are recommended for on-level students who want to challenge themselves but aren't inclined to take AP courses.

Online Information

High School Course/Academic Catalog - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Frisco ISD
http://www.friscoisd.org/ly/parentsStudents/HighSchoolCourseAcademicCatalogs.htm

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High School Course/Ac...

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QUESTIONS