

On-Line PAP Geometry – Frequently Asked Questions (2013)

Course Description: *At the middle school level, PAP Geometry will be taught in an on-line format. PAP Geometry will cover the same topics as the on level course, but in greater depth. This course has a strong emphasis on problem solving, proofs, logic, and applications of geometric concepts. A variety of activities including videos, interactive geometry tools, discussion forums, and collaborative assignments are integrated into this course. A strong foundation in algebra skills including solving equations, working with variables, solving systems of equations, and factoring is necessary for success in PAP Geometry.*

1. How are online classes different from face-to-face?

The online PAP Geometry course has been created by FISD Curriculum and Instruction personnel to ensure quality and alignment to state and district standards. The online course work has been written from the FISD curriculum – lessons, homework, quizzes, and curriculum based assessments are aligned to the face-to-face course offered at all Frisco high schools. Videos, collaborative forums, and electronic tools are used to provide the content with a live teacher in the background to take questions and clarify.

2. What benefits does taking a course online offer?

Students have the ability to take the advanced math course from their middle school campus. Parts of the course will be open to students moving at their own pace. The course will offer the latest in technological tools used for online learning.

3. Do I need my own computer to take an online course?

No, the student will have access to school district computers during their class period. However, the student can also access the course at home in the evenings if they would like.

4. What kind of computer is required for this online course?

You can use a Mac or a PC.

6. What are the minimum computer skills required?

Students need to be comfortable using Microsoft Word, Google Docs, email, discussion boards, basic downloading from the Internet, and attaching files.

8. Do I have access to my teacher during the class period?

Yes, a high school geometry teacher will be available in the background to discuss, take questions, or help with course issues.

9. How are online courses organized?

The course is set up with the same structure as the FISD curriculum. Unit topics and sequencing are aligned to ensure that students in both environments receive the same content and rigor. Every lesson within the online course corresponds to a lesson that teachers are presenting across the district in the live classroom. Students will move through the course in the same order, take similar quizzes, do similar homework, and complete the same formal assessments as that the live course students are experiencing. Students will view videos for the direct teach piece of the course and will participate in chat forums to collaborate with others about content. Students will move on to new units of study at the same time that other students are accessing the unit. This ensures the integrity of the CBAs (Curriculum Based Assessments) and other assessments.

10. How do I complete my coursework?

Students will be given the opportunity to electronically upload homework, quizzes, and other assignments to their teacher. Frisco ISD will provide all tools necessary to upload their work. However, if a student would like to use his/her own device, they are welcome to do so as long as parents understand that some apps may be necessary to load work, images, and correspondence. Tools within the course will be available at all times for students to load work or communicate with others.

Although this course is considered an electronic experience, all students will receive a booklet used for note taking, vocabulary, and drawings. This booklet will be provided by the district and is the primary source students are expected to use for organizing their learning. The booklet will have Cornell note structures, graphic organizers,

and drawing areas for compass and straightedge constructions. This booklet is referred to during the course as the “Book of Knowledge”, or BOK. Students will be expected to use the BOK everyday as they view videos and work on class work.

11. Where do I get my textbooks?

Because the course is all-inclusive, a textbook is not required. Students will have electronic access to teacher lectures, glossaries, and written content like those found in textbooks within the course. However, if students would like to have a hard copy of a textbook, he/she is more than welcome to check one out through the classroom facilitator.

12. How much interaction will there be between the teacher and the students?

Students will have the opportunity to talk directly with the teacher during class period hours either through collaborative forums or video calling. Teachers will also be available before and after school hours for tutorials. Students will be placed in classrooms where an adult facilitator is available to answer simple questions, provide supplies for activities, or monitor for student safety. The facilitator will not be the teacher of record.

13. Will my teacher be at my school?

No, the teacher will be located at one of the FISD high schools. The teacher will be scheduled as the teacher of record for the middle school students enrolled in the online course, and his/her sole responsibility will be to teach and monitor the students enrolled in the course.

14. What supplies will I need for the class?

Students will be asked to use a compass and straight edge throughout the year because formal construction is a state standard required for the course. Although the campus will provide both tools, students may need to practice constructions at home. If students want to purchase these tools, they are inexpensive and available in many stores.

15. Do I have to take PAP Geometry online or is there another option for me to take the class?

Middle school students who take PAP Geometry can take the course online or at their feeder high school campus. If a student chooses to take the course at the high school in person, parents will be responsible for providing transportation to and from the high school.

16. Can I work at my own pace and finish the course sooner than the time allowed?

Overall, the student cannot finish the course any earlier than a student taking the course face-to-face. However, as lessons become available, students can work at their own pace to finish assignments within that lesson. For example, some students may finish the day’s assignments sooner than others across town. Students will have 24 hour access to the course but live teacher access will be limited to class time.

17. Do I have to take an End-of-Course exam with the online version of PAP Geometry?

Since the student is receiving state credit for the course, the student will be required to take the state’s End-of-Course exam in May.

18. Do the students who take the online PAP Geometry course do the same lessons as the students taking the course face-to-face?

Writers of the course have used the same lessons from the face-to-face course to create the lessons in the online course. Some differences may occur in the activities but only because of the change in venue, not because of the rigor or conceptual understanding.

19. What does it cost to take PAP Geometry online?

FISD middle school students will be able to take the PAP Geometry online course free of charge in 2013-2014.

20. I don’t have an iPhone, computer, or smart phone. Can I still take the class?

Yes, all supplies will be provided for student to successfully take the course during the school day. Students will have the opportunity to check out a smart phone or other equipment during class to ensure that assignments can be uploaded electronically. After class time, students will be asked to use their home computer if they wish to access the course. iPads cannot be used for the course because of the interactive nature of the course.