

# Wester Advanced Academics

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## **What is AP?**

Advanced Placement, or AP, courses provide college level classes to high school students. The rigorous curriculum and course standards are set by The College Board. 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.

## **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 while engaging 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.

Any student can take these courses, however, students need to find a balance between the amount of time they have available and how many Pre-AP classes they want to take. Once a student sits in a Pre-AP-AP course, they are committed to completing the first six weeks at the Pre-AP level. If a student earns below a 70% in the Pre-AP course at the first six week marking period, the student will be placed on probation and a discussion will be held with the teacher and parent to decide if the student would be better suited in an on-level course.

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

Our first suggestion is to have a discussion with your child about his/her interest level in the subject and willingness to commit to the time and effort required to successfully take a Pre-AP class. Take into consideration your child's schedule outside of school and ability to dedicate extra time for studying. Additionally, look at his/her standardized test scores (STAAR, COGAT, etc.) to see if he/she is scoring in the upper range. All of these factors typically play into how successful a student will be in a pre-AP class. All high school level classes (pre-AP Algebra I, Pre-AP Geometry, Spanish I, Health) taken in middle school will be weighted towards the child's high school grade point average and reflected on their high school transcript. Students taking Pre-AP Algebra 1 or Pre-AP Geometry in middle school should plan on taking a total of 5 or 6 years of high school level math prior to graduation (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year can either be AP Calculus or AP Statistics). The STAAR EOC (End of Course) exam will be administered to all students in Pre-AP Algebra 1 and Pre-AP Geometry.

## **Middle School Pre-AP Options**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts, Pre-AP Math

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts, Pre-AP Math, Pre-AP Science

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Pre-AP ILA, Pre-AP Math, Pre-AP Algebra 1, Pre-AP Geometry, Pre-AP Science

**Listed below are a few examples of an On-Level and Pre-AP comparison in ILA, Science and Math**

**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
Late work is not accepted in 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> 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 Science vs. On-Level Science** **Middle School**

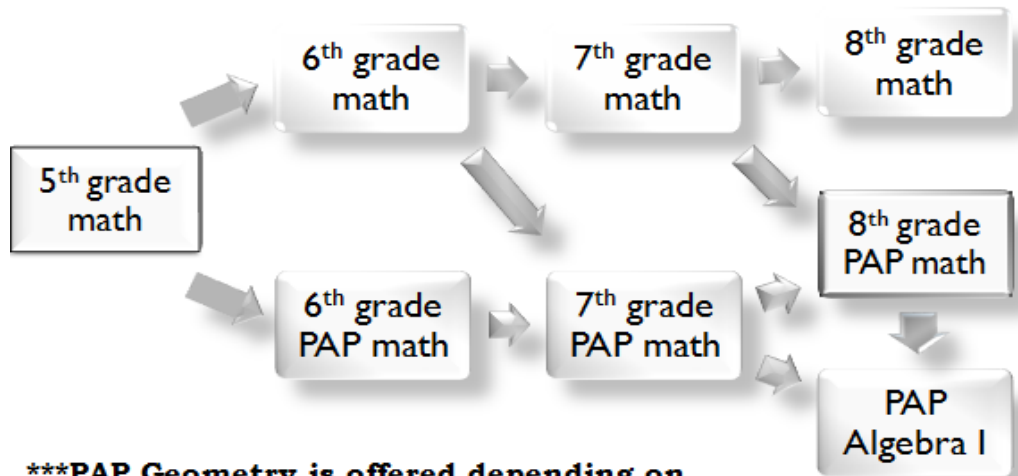
<b>Pre-AP</b>	<b>On-Level</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Science Fair (Independent Research and Data Collection, Honor's Level Topic (no cookbook ideas), time outside of class at least 6 to 8 weeks, Proposal of topic, acceptance of topic, research 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 Math vs. On-Level Math** **Middle School**

<b>Pre-AP</b>	<b>On-Level</b>
On Level TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) with increased rigor and more depth	On Level TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills)
Multi step equations	Single step equations
In-depth problem solving component – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•critical analysis</li> <li>•decision making</li> <li>•higher order thinking skills</li> <li>•helps students see the purpose of math</li> <li>•engages and challenges students' thinking</li> </ul>	

Listed below is an example of a Secondary Math Pathway

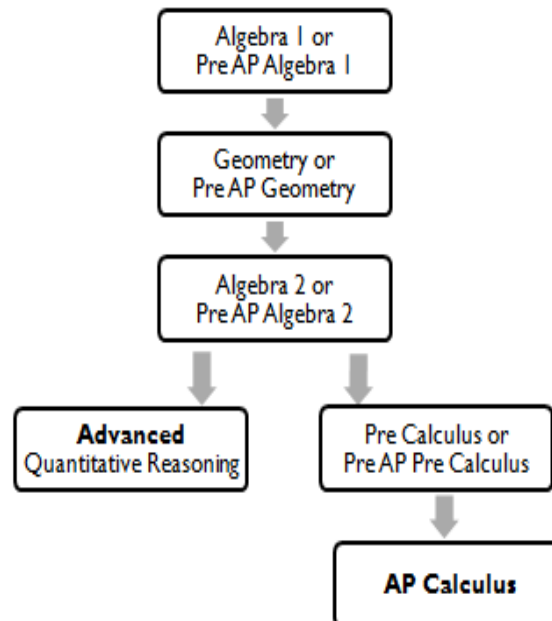
## Middle School Math Courses



**\*\*\*PAP Geometry is offered depending on success on CBEs.**

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## High School Math Sequence



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## Additional Advancement Options for High School

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 or 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). Those interested in taking Pre AP Geometry at the middle school level must pass a 6<sup>th</sup> grade math CBE with 80% between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. FISD also offers senior level Dual Credit courses through Collin College (English IV, Government/Economics, College Algebra- does not count toward state math requirements). These courses are recommended for on-level students who want to challenge themselves but aren't inclined to take AP courses.

## High School Overview

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

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Required Courses</u>
English	4	English I, 2, 3, 4
Math	4	Algebra I, 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
PE.	1	PE, 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	4	Electives are classes you choose.
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	

<u>AP/PA</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

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. 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%)