

Pre-Advanced Placement Courses

Equity and Access to Pre-AP Courses

Opportunities for enrollment in Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) are open and made available to ALL junior high school students. Because Pre-AP courses are designed as college preparation, students must have demonstrated their academic preparedness and their willingness to invest the time and effort required for success in rigorous courses. College Board research clearly shows that students who participate in challenging coursework, including Pre-AP, have considerably higher success in college.

Benefits of Pre-AP Courses

A Different Kind of Class:

- Through increased rigor, Pre-AP/Advanced courses help students acquire the skills and academic habits needed for success in high school and beyond. Students will improve critical reading, writing, and problem-solving skills as a result of successful completion of these courses. In addition, students' time management, note-taking, and study skills will be greatly enhanced.
- A Pre-AP/Advanced classroom is different from an on-level class/course. Instruction in these classrooms focuses on intense discussions, rigorous real-world applications, analytical thinking, critical reading, and persuasive/expository writing. Students are held to a high standard of academic engagement.
- Pre-AP/Advanced courses provide preparation for success in high school AP courses and the corresponding College Board AP Exams through which students may earn college credits.

Pre-AP Selection Process

In an effort to place students in appropriate level classes, admission criteria have been established for Pre-AP courses. The academic records for all students who register for a Pre-AP course will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. **Previous Academic Performance.** Students shall have a yearly average of 90 (A) or higher in an on-level class/course or 80 (B) or higher in a Pre-AP or Advanced course immediately preceding the next-level Pre-AP course.
2. **STAAR Assessment.** It is highly recommended that students achieve a "Masters Grade Level" STAAR score for entry into each Pre-AP course. Demonstrated academic achievement on the state assessment indicates that the student has the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the rigorous Pre-AP or Advanced course. At minimum, however, students must achieve a "Meets Grade Level" score on the exam required for entry into a Pre-AP or advanced course.

Entry Criteria for Pre-AP courses:

Current Grade	2019-20 Course	Course Requirements	
6th Grade	7 th Pre-AP Math	6 th Grade Math Course Average 6 th Grade STAAR Math	(≥80%/90%) (≥1653)
	7 th Pre-AP English	6 th Grade ELAR Course Average 6 th Grade STAAR Reading	(≥80%/90%) (≥1629)
	7 th Pre-AP Social Studies	6 th Grade SS Course Average 6 th Grade STAAR Reading	(≥80%/90%) (≥1629)
	7 th Pre-AP Science	6 th Grade Science Course Average 5 th Grade STAAR Science or 6 th Grade STAAR Reading	(≥80%/90%) (≥4000) (≥1629)
7th Grade	8 th Algebra I	7 th Grade Math Course Average 7 th Grade STAAR Math	(≥80%/90%) (≥1688)
	8 th Pre-AP English	7 th Grade ELAR Course Average 7 th Grade STAAR Reading	(≥80%/90%) (≥1674)
	8 th Pre-AP Social Studies	7 th Grade SS Course Average 7 th Grade STAAR Reading	(≥80%/90%) (≥1674)
	8 th Pre-AP Science	7 th Grade Science Course Average 5 th Grade STAAR Science or 7 th Grade STAAR Reading	(≥80%/90%) (≥4000) (≥1674)

Appeal of Criteria

Students and parents may appeal to campus administrators for consideration to enroll into a Pre-AP course if a student does not meet initial admission criteria.

Pre-AP Program Requirements

- **Parent Meeting.** All parents of students who are enrolled in a Pre-AP course are requested to attend one of the parent meetings held in the spring.
- **Summer Assignments.** Summer Assignments are highly recommended for Pre-AP courses and are designed to introduce students to the course content, to familiarize students with the rigor of the Pre-AP curriculum, and to give students an idea of the level of intensity and the pace of the course. A list of summer assignments for applicable courses will be provided for students, and will be posted on the campus and district website. These assignments are due no earlier than the 6th day of school.
- **Commitment Statement.** An electronic contract signed by both student and parent will be due during the first week of school or upon enrollment of new students.

Exit from a Pre-AP or Advanced Course

College and university admissions officers have repeatedly indicated that high school students who successfully complete Pre-AP courses are given greater consideration when all other college admissions indicators are equal. A transcript that indicates that a student has earned a "C" in a Pre-AP course is given higher consideration than one who earns an "A" in an on-level class/course. Because junior high school Pre-AP courses are designed to prepare students for high school and, ultimately, college success, we strongly advise Pre-AP students to stay in these courses working through difficulties by attending tutorials, doing extra reading/work at home, joining a student study group, and using effective note-taking strategies in class. If a student indicates that he/she wants out of the class and scheduled into the corresponding on-level course, the following timeline and procedure(s) must be followed:

Exit Point #1: Prior to Start of School

Students are registered for courses during the spring of the previous school year. It is important that students carefully select their coursework making wise decisions based on their time commitments, their interests, and their demonstrated academic achievement. The first exit point after initial registration will be made available to all students in May. All students will review their course selections and may request a schedule change prior to the start of school in the fall. A parent/primary caregiver signature is required for the schedule change.

Exit Point #2: End of the First Nine Weeks

Students who are failing the Pre-AP course at the end of the first grading period are in danger of failing for the semester. Serious consideration must be given to the student's willingness to complete the rigorous coursework and to his/her time commitments in order for him/her to be success and pass the first semester. Students who are failing a Pre-AP course at the end of the first 9 weeks may be moved to the respective on-level class/course. Students with a 65-69 may remain in the course as long as the student, parent, and teacher agree the student has the ability to pass for the semester. The student's parent or primary caregiver will be notified by the Pre-AP teacher about the failing grade and course or action at the end of the first nine weeks.

Exit Point #3: End of the First Semester

Any student who fails a Pre-AP course with a grade below 70 for the first semester may be removed from the course at the end of the first semester. The student's parent or primary caregiver will be notified by the Pre-AP/Advanced course teacher of the failing grade which will result in a schedule change. The parent or primary caregiver may also request to remove the student from the course for the second semester. Written notification must be given to the school counselor before the first business day in December.

To request an exit from a Pre-AP/Advanced course at one of the three (3) Exit Points of a semester, students and parents/guardians must complete a Class Exit Request Form and submit it to the campus counselor prior to the Exit Point deadlines.