

Pre-AP and General Education Classes in Eighth Grade

What is Pre-AP?

Pre advanced Placement classes are on-grade level academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments.

What is the difference between a Pre-AP and a General Education class?

The curricula for both Pre-AP and General Ed courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Education Agency guidelines for each course. This curriculum is called TEKS, or Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Students enrolled in Pre-AP should expect a faster class pace, more depth in classroom discussion, increased amount of reading, and overall greater academic expectations on assignments and time management.

Why should my child take a Pre-AP class?

Pre-AP middle school courses are designed to prepare students for high school Pre-AP and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP courses are college-level courses taught in a high school setting, generally during the Junior and Senior years. At the end of each AP course and AP Exam is given. Qualifying scores on the AP Exams can possibly enable students to receive college credit and/or advanced standing at a university or college. Students taking Pre-AP courses should expect additional demands on time, personal organization, and commitment.

Can any child take a Pre-AP course?

Argyle ISD has an open enrollment policy in Pre-AP offerings. Teachers, parents and students should work together to choose the most appropriate classes for student success. The following characteristics have been found in successful Pre-AP students:

- Strong study skills and self-motivation
- Proficient oral and communication skills
- Self-discipline to plan, organize, and carry out assigned tasks
- Commended performance on TAKS tests in the related core subjects
- Above average grade in the previous year related content area

Specific Differences in Core subjects:

MATH: Pre-AP is Algebra 1, general education is Pre-Algebra. There are completely different TEKS designed for these classes.

ENGLISH: Pre-AP will have summer reading assignments and outside independent reading throughout the year. They will be expected to form in-depth responses and articulate, elaborate on a variety of topics.

SCIENCE: Pre-AP students should have an above average aptitude in Science. They should enjoy the higher questioning practices needed in science exploration.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Pre-AP History students are tested differently. Pre AP tests will be essay tests. Throughout the school year students will learn and master timed essay writing; the process of learning will be fun! In addition to the essays there will be two major projects. These are the only absolute differences in my regular and Pre-AP courses; there will always be natural differences. An example of a natural difference is: the depth of classroom conversation and debate.

We also suggest that you discuss this with your child and with the current academic teacher in that subject. We hope this guide will be helpful in selecting the courses most appropriate for the success of your child.