

## Argyle Middle School Pre-AP classes

### **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, an 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?**

ArgyleISD 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

### **Specific Differences in Core subjects:**

**MATH (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>):** There are completely different TEKS designed for these classes. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP Math is called Pre-Algebra. Students will learn 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS in this class. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-AP Math is called Algebra 1. Students will learn 9<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS in this class and receive high school credit.

**ENGLISH (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>):** Pre-AP will have summer reading assignments and outside-of-class, independent reading throughout the year. They will be expected to form in-depth responses, both spoken and written, on a variety of topics and literature pieces. Pre-AP students should enjoy reading and writing and embrace the challenge of both activities.

**SCIENCE (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>):** Pre-AP students should have an above average aptitude in Science. They should enjoy the higher questioning practices needed in science exploration, and all Pre-AP students should be prepared for tests that could include essay questions.

**SOCIAL STUDIES (8<sup>th</sup>):** Pre-AP students should have an above average aptitude in Social Studies. They should enjoy the higher questioning practices needed in social studies exploration, and all Pre-AP students should be prepared for tests that could include essay questions.

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.