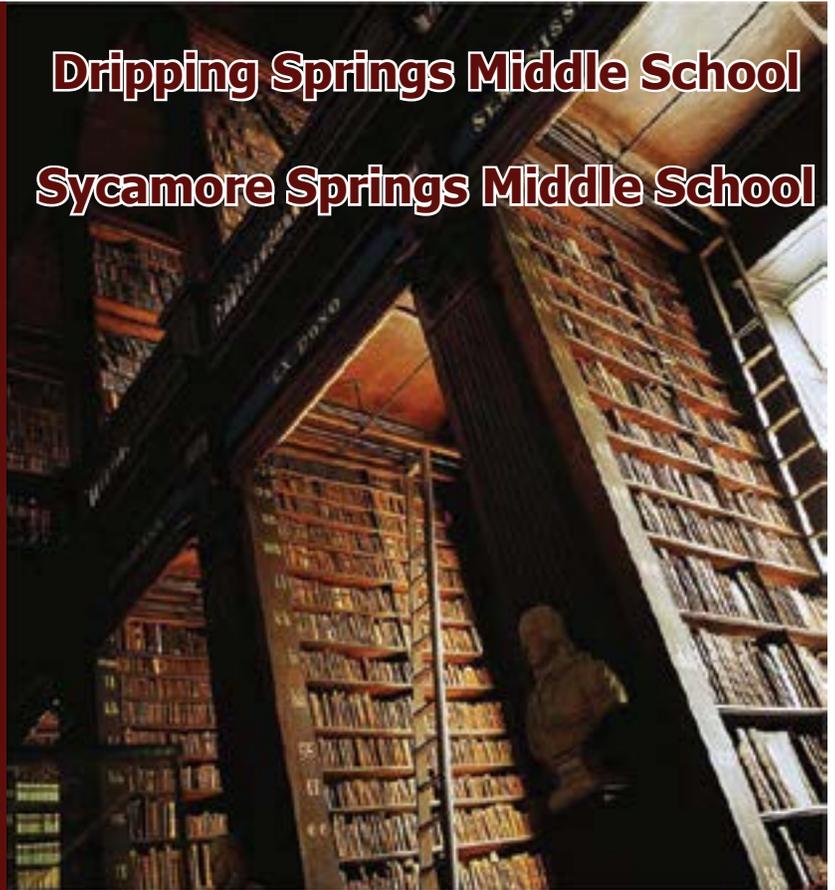


Advanced Academic

PRE-AP PROGRAM

Dripping Springs Middle School
Sycamore Springs Middle School



PREPARING EVERY DRIPPING SPRINGS STUDENT FOR COLLEGE

Advanced Placement (AP) is a College Board program to provide students an opportunity to gain an edge in college preparation, stand out in the college admissions process, and broaden their intellectual horizons. The rigor of the AP courses and exams offered at the high school level is such that students must begin their academic preparation through taking more rigorous courses prior to enrolling in an AP course. The Dripping Springs Advanced Academic Program (Pre-AP) is designed to provide all students interested in a more rigorous college preparatory experience the opportunity beginning in sixth grade.

Conceptually, the Advanced Academic Program is based on three important premises. **First**, the expectation that all students can perform at rigorous academic levels with appropriate preparation and support. This expectation should be reflected in our curriculum and instruction throughout the school such that all students are consistently being challenged to expand their knowledge and skills to

the next level. **Second**, the belief that we can prepare every student for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and acquisition of knowledge as early as possible. Addressed effectively, the upper elementary, middle, and high school years can provide a powerful opportunity to help all students acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning. **Third**, the belief that every student should have the opportunity to participate through the open enrollment concept.

Advanced Academic Program teachers are equipped with the curriculum, strategies and tools to engage their students in active, high-level learning. In addition, each is GT-trained to provide gifted and talented students who are included in their advanced academic classes the appropriate differentiation required to ensure success.

Why Advanced Academics (Pre-AP)?

Our district is fortunate to have a large percentage of high performing, college-bound students. Our high school students have experienced the benefits of a successful open-enrollment Pre-AP and AP program for many years. To enhance the opportunities for more students to successfully challenge the AP curriculum and be college-ready, we must increase the rigor for those students eager to meet the challenge. The Advanced Academic Program provides our students the opportunity to take more rigorous courses. More importantly, the number and quality of advanced courses a student takes is more significant than GPA or class rank for predicting college success.

What are Advanced Academic Courses?

Advanced Academic courses are on-grade level courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The coursework requires student to engage in independent and analytical assignments in addition to completing a substantial amount of work outside of class.

Who may take Advanced Academic Courses?

The Advanced Academic program model is based on the belief that we can prepare **every** student for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and acquisition of knowledge

as early as possible. Consistent with this philosophy, Advanced Academic courses are open to any Dripping Springs Middle School student who is willing and able to meet the challenges of the coursework. Every DSMS student will be placed with a qualified teacher who is certified and equipped to provide students for a quality learning experience. Students selecting to participate in Advanced Academic courses will be placed with teachers who have additional Pre-AP training to ensure their students will be prepared to challenge the AP curriculum and be prepared for college.

How is the program structured?

All Advanced Academic Pre-AP courses are open enrollment with recommended prerequisites to guide parents and students in the process of determining if these advanced courses the best option for the student. Pre-AP classes are offered in Grades 6-8 in all core content areas: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Specific guidelines will be established to allow students who are not able to master the academic rigor of the courses to transfer to a regular academic course. It is important for every parent and student to fully understand the program guidelines before choosing to enroll in a pre-AP course.

Dripping Springs ISD Middle School Pre-AP

Pre-AP Courses

Grades 6-8 English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

Where can I get more information about Pre-AP?

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/preap/index.html>

Who can I contact if I have questions?

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