

August 26, 2013

Dear Parents and Students,

The Advanced Placement Program, including the Pre-Advanced Placement Program, sponsored by the College Board, is offered on all middle school and high school campuses in Fort Bend ISD to 7th through 12th grades. In this college-preparatory program, students enroll in Pre-AP at the early level, graduating to AP courses in high school. Curriculum is integrated from grade to grade, culminating in the opportunity to receive college credit after successfully completing an exam at the end of the AP course in high school.

The goal of this program is to develop awareness of language and to sharpen skills in critical reading and effective writing. In literature, we will focus our study on essays, novels, dramas, poetry, and short stories. In composition, we will focus on writing essays and analyzing literary style.

Because the AP program is designed to prepare students for college level work, the classes proceed at a faster pace. Knowledge and skills needed are more complex and at a higher level or difficulty than those commonly required in regular classes. Homework is can be more frequent and more demanding; most assigned reading and writing is done outside of class, which may include weekends and holidays. Summer reading is required. For students who consistently fail to perform tasks or struggle excessively, a schedule change may be addressed.

Successful Pre-AP and AP students are typically task oriented, proficient readers who are able to set priorities with regard to time and responsibilities. Parental support also plays a key role in the success of these students. Any student who is willing to make the necessary commitment to the time and work necessary to meet the requirements is welcome to enroll. Please read the student, parent, and teacher expectations on the back of this letter with your child. Sign and return these expectations to your child's Pre-AP/GT teacher.

Sincerely,

Kent Sheffield
8th Grade Pre-AP/GT ELA

PRE-AP/GT STUDENT, PARENT, TEACHER EXPECTATIONS

STUDENT—I agree to organize my time and effort to successfully complete the Pre-AP/GT course. I agree to complete the required summer reading assignment. I will maintain my grades, and I will notify the teacher immediately if I fall behind in class reading or assignments.

PARENT—I agree to be familiar with the Pre-AP/GT course requirements and to help my son/daughter organize study time in support of class assignments. I understand that if my student’s average falls to a “D” or “F,” a schedule change to a block ELA class may be appropriate. I understand that, while not required, my student may ask me to purchase a personal copy of a novel so they may annotate their own text. I understand and agree that my child will be required to keep up with reading and assignments.

TEACHER—I agree to teach the Pre-AP/GT course at the pace and level that will enable students to make a smooth transition into high school AP courses. Students and parents will be notified if work and /or assignments are unsatisfactory.

EXITING POLICY—If a student makes a “D” or “F” in the Pre-AP/GT course, a conference (student/parent/teacher) is requested. The student may be exited to a block ELA class.

HONOR CODE—All students will be expected to do their own work. Students will be given assignments, projects, essays, and/or exams to be completed outside of class. If a student cheats or plagiarizes, appropriate consequences will follow. The offense may result in a lower average (a zero given for the assignment), disciplinary action, and/or the student being removed from the course.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____