

**San Angelo Independent  
School District**

**2018-2019  
Middle School Course Guide  
Grades 6-8**



**Middle School  
Course Requirements  
San Angelo ISD  
2018-2019**



Middle School courses offered in SAISD meet and exceed the requirements set forth by and accredited by the Texas Education Agency. A middle school student's program of study is as follows for each grade:

**Sixth Grade Program**

English Language Arts  
Reading Comprehension  
Mathematics  
Science (General Studies)  
Social Studies (World History)  
Physical Education (State required)  
Elective (Fine Arts/STEM)

**Seventh Grade Program**

English Language Arts  
Reading Comprehension  
Mathematics  
Science (Life Science)  
Social Studies (Texas History)  
Physical Education (State Required)  
Elective

**Eighth Grade Program**

English Language Arts  
Mathematics  
Science (Earth Science)  
Social Studies (U.S. History)  
Elective  
Elective  
Elective

\*As a result of HB 3 middle school students must take at least one fine arts course.

### **STATE ASSESSMENTS in Middle School—STAAR**

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness is given in the following core areas at the specified grade level:

Grade 6: Reading, Math

Grade 7: Reading, Writing, Math

Grade 8: Reading, Math, Social Studies, Science

Grade 8: Algebra I EOC (if enrolled in Pre-AP Algebra I)

### **High School Courses Taken Prior to High School**

SAISD offers Algebra I and Spanish I designated for grades 9 – 12, in middle school. **Students who take these courses must show satisfactory completion of the prerequisite TEKS, state requirements for the high school course taken, and meet district-approved entrance criteria.**

- Students taking Algebra I in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be expected to take a math course each year of high school (grades 9 – 12) for a total of 5 credits of mathematics.

Students who successfully complete Spanish I in middle school may use this credit to satisfy one credit of the other language requirement in grades 9 – 12.

Satisfactory completion of high school courses in middle school shall be reflected on the student's academic achievement record, and the student will be awarded state graduation credit. High School courses completed prior to high school are counted as credit for all high school graduation plans and are factored into a student's GPA.

## Middle School Course Offerings

### Language Arts



#### **English Language Arts Grade 6 100632 (ELA 6)**

**Description:** This course integrates 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts by exploring a variety of genres including short fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry. The grammatical, mechanical and syntactic skills of language are taught within the context of authentic writing through the writing process, emphasizing editing and revising to produce polished publications for specific purposes. The course enhances students' language skills by emphasizing critical thinking and logical development of ideas as students use the communication skills of reading, writing, research, speaking, listening and media literacy.

#### **English Language Arts Pre AP 6 100631 (ELA PAP 6)**

**Description:** This course integrates 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts by exploring a variety of genres including short fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry. The grammatical, mechanical and syntactic skills of language are taught within the context of authentic writing through the writing process, emphasizing editing and revising to produce polished publications for specific purposes. The course enhances students' language skills by emphasizing critical thinking and logical development of ideas as students use the communication skills of reading, writing, research, speaking, listening and media literacy.

In addition to the grade level requirements, this course prepares intrinsically motivated, task-oriented, proficient readers and disciplined writers for success in our high school Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses. Students will grasp and master grade level curriculum and move beyond basic concepts to abstract conceptual learning. Students will be expected to read and write above grade level, connect ideas among multiple texts, participate in class discussions, complete group and individual projects and conduct independent reading, writing and research outside of the classroom.

#### **Comprehension Club 6 120632 (Read Comp 6)**

**Description:** This course uses close reading, critical thinking and rich discussion to deepen students understanding of written and oral language and sharpen comprehension skills. Through structured independent and guided reading, students read and analyze a variety of thematically linked text, building analytical and communication skills.

#### **English Language Arts & Reading Grade 7 120732 (ELAR 7)**

**Description:** This course integrates the language arts by exploring genres such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama through analysis of literature that reflects a diverse cultural and literary heritage. The course enhances student's language skills by emphasizing critical thinking and logical development of ideas as students use the communication skills of reading, writing, research, listening, speaking and media literacy.

### **English Language Arts & Reading Pre AP Grade 7 120731 (ELAR PAP 7)**

**Description:** This course integrates the language arts by exploring genres such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama through analysis of literature that reflects a diverse cultural and literary heritage. The course enhances student's language skills by emphasizing critical thinking and logical development of ideas as students use the communication skills of reading, writing, research, listening, speaking and media literacy.

In addition to the grade level requirements, this course prepares intrinsically motivated, task-oriented, proficient readers and disciplined writers for success in our high school Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses. Students will grasp and master grade level curriculum and move beyond basic concepts to abstract conceptual learning. Students will be expected to read and write above grade level, connect ideas among multiple texts, participate in class discussions, complete group and individual projects and conduct independent reading, writing and research outside of the classroom.

### **Writing Grade 7 100732 (ELA 7)**

**Description:** This course teaches grammatical, mechanical and syntactic skills of language within the context of composition with students using technology to enhance the written and oral composing processes emphasizing editing and revision to produce polished publications for specific audiences. Students demonstrate style, voice, and sophistication in appropriate composition and authentic, cross-curricular writing.

### **Writing Pre AP Grade 7 100731 (ELA PAP 7)**

**Description:** This course teaches grammatical, mechanical and syntactic skills of language within the context of composition with students using technology to enhance the written and oral composing processes emphasizing editing and revision to produce polished publications for specific audiences. Students demonstrate style, voice, and sophistication in appropriate composition and authentic, cross-curricular writing.

In addition to the grade level requirements, this course prepares intrinsically motivated, task-oriented, proficient readers and disciplined writers for success in our high school Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses. Students will grasp and master grade level curriculum and move beyond basic concepts to abstract conceptual learning. Students will be expected to read and write above grade level, connect ideas among multiple texts, participate in class discussions, complete group and individual projects and conduct independent reading, writing and research outside of the classroom.

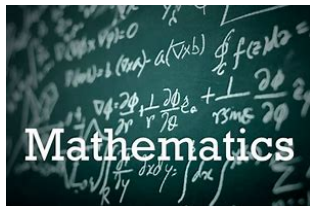
### **English Grade 8 100832 (ELA 8)**

**Description:** This course integrates the language arts by exploring genres such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama, through analysis of literature that reflects a diverse cultural and literary heritage and the creation of each genre through the writing process. The grammatical, mechanical and syntactic skills of language are taught within the context of composition with students using technology to enhance the written and oral composition processes, emphasizing editing and revising to produce polished publications for specific audiences. The course enhances student's language skills by emphasizing critical thinking and logical development of ideas. Students demonstrate style, voice, and sophistication in appropriate composition.

### **English Pre AP Grade 8 100831 (ELA PAP 8)**

**Description:** Creative and critical thinking are emphasized as students use the communication skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, including the use of technology, to study the variety of ways problems are defined, analyzed, evaluated, and solved. Extensive in and out of class reading, individual and group research projects, challenging class discussions, and a variety of writing experiences provide a rich and rigorous language experience. *Students must meet the accelerated program requirements.*

# Mathematics



## Mathematics Grade 6 200632 (MATH 6)

**Description:** This course focuses on using ratios to describe direct proportional relationships involving number, geometry, measurement, probability, and adding and subtracting decimals and fractions. Students build a foundation of basic understanding in number, operation, and quantitative reasoning; patterns, relationships and algebraic thinking; geometry and spatial reasoning; measurement; and probability and statistics.

## Mathematics Pre AP Gr6 200631(MATH PAP 6)

**Description:** Accelerated math is designed to prepare students to study Algebra I in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The rigorous, fast-paced Pre-AP courses in grades 6 and 7 compact the TEKS from grades 6, 7, and 8 into two years. The grade 6 Pre-AP math course is an accelerated and in-depth study of mathematical concepts for specific sixth and seventh grade TEKS with increased emphasis on in-depth problem-solving experiences.

## Mathematics Grade 7 200732 (MATH 7)

**Description:** This course focuses on using direct proportional relationships in number, geometry, measurement, and probability; applying addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals, fractions, and integers; and using statistical measures to describe data.

## Mathematics Pre AP Grade 7 200731 (MATH PAP 7)

**Description:** Accelerated math is designed to prepare students to study Algebra I in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The rigorous, fast-paced Pre-AP courses in grades 6 and 7 compact the TEKS from grades 6, 7, and 8 into two years. The grade 7 math course is an accelerated and in-depth study of mathematical concepts for specific seventh and eighth grade TEKS with increased emphasis on in-depth problem-solving experiences. Students may qualify for enrollment in Algebra I upon successful completion of this course.

## Mathematics Grade 8 200832 (MATH 8)

**Description:** This course focuses on using basic principles of algebra to analyze and represent both proportional and non-proportional linear relationships and using probability to describe data and make predictions.

## Mathematics Pre-AP Gr 8 200831 (MATH PAP 8)

**Description:** Accelerated math is designed to prepare students to study Algebra I Pre AP. The grade 8 Pre AP math course is an accelerated and in-depth study of mathematical concepts for specific eighth grade TEKS with increased emphasis on in-depth problem solving experiences. Students may qualify for enrollment in Algebra I Pre AP upon completion of this course.

## Algebra I Pre-AP 210831 (ALG I PAP)

**Description:** This course provides the foundation concepts for Algebra II, Geometry, and all high school mathematics. Concepts will be explored in greater depth and problem-solving will be more varied and demanding. Technology including the graphing calculator will be used. Additional topics to be covered may include geometric representations of algebraic situations, quadratic systems with parabolas, and absolute value equations and inequalities. **NOTE:** One high school math credit is earned upon successful

completion of this course and is calculated into the student's high school GPA. *Students taking Algebra I in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be expected to take a math course each year of high school (grade 9 – 12) for a total of 5 mathematics credits.*

## Science



### **Science Grade 6 300632 (SCIENCE 6)**

**Description:** In this course students develop science concepts and apply scientific processes to the life, earth, and physical sciences through laboratory and field-based experiences.

### **Science Pre-AP Grade 6 300631 (SCIENCE PAP 6)**

**Description:** In this course students develop science concepts and apply scientific processes to the life, earth, and physical sciences through laboratory and field-based experiences and will delve into the content in greater depth and expand understandings at a faster pace. Pre-AP courses emphasize cognitive concepts and processes using higher-level skills, independent studies, and analytical and communication skills that are consistent with the structure of the science disciplines.

### **Life Science Grade 7 300732 (SCIENCE 7)**

**Description:** In this course student deepen their understanding of life, earth, and physical science concepts and apply scientific processes in laboratory and field-based experiences.

### **Life Science Pre-AP Gr 7 300731 (SCIENCE PAP 7)**

**Description:** In this course student deepen their understanding of life, earth, and physical science concepts and apply scientific processes in laboratory and field-based experiences and will delve into the content in greater depth and expand understandings at a faster pace. Pre-AP courses emphasize cognitive concepts and processes using higher-level skills, independent studies, and analytical and communication skills that are consistent with the structure of the science disciplines.

### **Earth Science Grade 8 300832 (SCIENCE 8)**

**Description:** In this course students demonstrate their understanding of life, earth, and physical science concepts by apply scientific methods and critical thinking in laboratory and field-based experiences and scenarios.

### **Earth Science Pre-AP Gr8 300831 (SCIENCE PAP 8)**

**Description:** In this course students demonstrate their understanding of life, earth, and physical science concepts by apply scientific methods and critical thinking in laboratory and field-based experiences and scenarios. This course will delve into the content in greater depth and expand understandings at a faster pace. Pre-AP courses emphasize cognitive concepts and processes using higher-level skills, independent studies, and analytical and communication skills that are consistent with the structure of the science disciplines.

## Social Studies



### **World History Grade 6 400632 (SOCIAL STUDIES 6)**

**Description:** This course includes the study of people and places of the contemporary world using a regional approach. Students will examine the economic, political, and geographic aspects of contemporary cultures using documents, technology and critical thinking skills. Students will create written, visual and oral products.

### **World History Pre-AP Gr6 400631 (SOCIAL STUDIES PAP 6)**

**Description:** This course includes the study of people and places of the contemporary world using a regional approach. Students will examine the economic, political, and geographic aspects of contemporary cultures using documents, technology and critical thinking skills. Students will create written, visual and oral products. Pre-AP social studies courses will delve into the content in greater depth and expand understandings at a faster pace. Expectations will include extensive reading, individual and group research projects, challenging class discussions, a variety of writing experiences, as well as applications and problem solving which reflect real world demands.

### **Texas History Grade 7 400732 (SOCIAL STUDIES 7)**

**Description:** This course includes the study of Texas history from early times to present. Students will examine how Texas has changed over time economically, politically, socially, and geographically using documents, technology, and critical thinking skills. Students will create written, visual and oral products.

### **Texas History Pre AP Gr7 400731 (SOCIAL STUDIES PAP 7)**

**Description:** This course includes the study of Texas history from early times to present. Students will examine how Texas has changed over time economically, politically, socially, and geographically using documents, technology, and critical thinking skills. Students will create written, visual and oral products. Pre-AP social studies courses will delve into the content in greater depth and expand understandings at a faster pace. Expectations will include extensive reading, individual and group research projects, challenging class discussions, a variety of writing experiences, as well as applications and problem solving which reflect real world demands.

### **US History Grade 8 400832 (SOCIAL STUDIES 8)**

**Description:** This course includes the study of the history of the United States from exploration through Reconstruction. Students will examine the economic, political, social, and geographical aspects of the early history of the United States using documents, technology and critical thinking skills. Students will create written visual and oral products.

### **US History Pre-AP Gr8 400831 (SOCIAL STUDIES PAP 8)**

**Description:** This course includes the study of the history of the United States from exploration through Reconstruction. Students will examine the economic, political, social, and geographical aspects of the early history of the United States using documents, technology and critical thinking skills. Students will create written visual and oral products. Pre-AP social studies courses will delve into the content in greater depth and expand understanding at a faster pace. Expectations will include extensive reading, individual and



group research projects, challenging class discussions, a variety of writing experiences, as well as applications and problem solving which reflect real world demands.

## Physical Education



### **Physical Education Grade 6 520632/M; 521632/F**

**Description:** Students will develop fitness knowledge and motor skills basic to efficient movement. Students will learn about decision making skills that promote healthy lifestyle choices and improve the quality of student's lives.

### **Physical Education Grade 7 520732/M; 521732/F**

**Description:** Students will develop skills in a physically active environment which may include fitness concepts and a variety of individual sport, recreational or team sport models. Students will learn about health-related decision-making skills that promote healthy lifestyle choices.

### **PE Partners Grades 6, 7 & 8 522635/522735/522835**

**Description:** PE Partners involves basic Physical Education, based on the TEKS of the general Physical Education course. This class provides assistance from peers of the General Ed setting to motivate and model skills for those students who require assistance beyond what can be modified in the general education setting.

### **Athletics**

**Description:** Athletics is a competitive course. Tryouts will be held for each sport and teams are selected through a tryout process. Uniforms are required for everyday practice. All participants must have a yearly physical completed on UIL form. Other athletic options include gymnastics and swimming at Central High School. Placement in these courses is by Central High School coach approval.

### **Boys' Athletics Grade 7 or 8 540732/540832**

Cross-country, Football, basketball, track, tennis

### **Girls' Athletics Grade 7 or 8 541732/541832**

Cross-country, Volleyball, basketball, track, tennis

## Foreign Language



### **Spanish I Grade 8 590832**

**Description:** Spanish I is an introductory course that focuses on developing basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, and language acquisition. Emphasis is on understanding common expressions, greetings, questions, commands, and simple conversations. Students will use the language lab to practice oral proficiency and conversation. A basic vocabulary is built and the grammatical structure of the language is taught. Cultural topics are incorporated throughout the course. **NOTE:** One high school foreign language credit is earned upon successful completion of this course

## Fine Arts



### **Art Grade I 600632**

**Description:** This course covers the elements of art that affect design with focus on shape, texture, line, value and color schemes. The course is an introduction to the basic principles of drawing, painting with watercolors, acrylics, and folk art.

### **Art Grade II 600742**

**Description:** This course covers the elements of art that affect design with focus on shape, texture, line, value and color schemes. The course continues to emphasize basic principles of drawing, painting with watercolors, acrylics, and folk art. The course will be used to continue building a strong foundation for future art courses.

### **Art Grade III 600832**

**Description:** This course fosters the love of aesthetics and critical judgment through the use and awareness of the Elements and Principles of Design. Students can advance in skill and personal style. Students will create artwork in such areas as drawing, painting, design, crafts, printmaking, and sculpture. The course will be used to enhance the students' creativity and build a strong foundation for future art courses.

### **Band Grade I 620632**

**Description:** This course develops basic playing skills while learning to play an instrument. Students will learn to read music and will perform at concerts and competitions.

### **Band Grade II 620732**

**Description:** This course develops basic playing skills while learning to play an instrument. Students will learn to read music and will perform at concerts and competitions.

### **Band Grade III 620832**

**Description:** *Instructor approval or audition required.* This course develops ear training, music reading, individual/ensemble playing skills, and musicianship. Students will participate in concerts, contests, and community performances.

### **Choir I 670632**

**Description:** This course incorporates choral reading techniques, ear training, vocal production, sight reading, and basic theory. There will be public performances.

### **Choir II 670732**

**Description:** This course develops skills in musicianship, choral reading techniques, ear training, sight reading, vocal production, and basic music theory. There will be public performances

### **Choir III 670832**

**Description:** *Instructor approval or audition required.* Advanced students further extend previously learned vocal and ensemble skills. They will also study the historical and cultural significance of works performed, and will do qualitative analysis of choral literature. There will be public performances.

### **Orchestra I 660632**

**Description:** This course develops basic playing skills, practice habits, music reading, and listening skills while learning to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass.

### **Orchestra II 660732**

**Description:** This course extends ear training skills, playing skills, tone production, music reading, and musicianship while playing the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will learn to care for their instruments and perform at concerts and competitions.

### **Orchestra III 660832**

**Description:** *Instructor approval or audition required.* This course develops ear training/listening skills, music reading, individual/ensemble playing skills, and musicianship. Students will perform in concerts, competitions, and community programs.

### **Mariachi I 653632**

**Description:** This course develops basic playing skills, practice habits, music reading, and listening skills while learning to play the violin, trumpet, and guitars specific to Mariachi, a style of music based in Mexican culture. Students will perform in concerts, competitions, and community programs.

### **Mariachi II 653732**

**Description:** *Instructor approval or audition required.* This course extends playing skills, practice habits, music reading, and listening skills of playing the violin, trumpet, and guitars specific to Mariachi, a style of music based in Mexican culture. Students will perform in concerts, competitions, and community programs.

### **Mariachi III 653832**

**Description:** *Instructor approval or audition required.* This course extends playing skills, practice habits, music reading, and listening skills of playing the violin, trumpet, and guitars specific to Mariachi, a style of music based in Mexican culture. Students will perform in concerts, competitions, and community programs.

## Electives



**Electives offerings are based on enrollment numbers. Some courses in this guide may not be available on all campuses or may have limited enrollment.**

### **Teen Leadership Grade 8 926132**

Teen Leadership teaches personal responsibility, principle-based decision-making, leadership and social skills, the importance of attitude, healthy relationships and emotional intelligence, peer pressure resistance, conflict resolution, goal setting, public speaking, choices and consequences.

### **Innovation in Technology (Grade 7 or 8) 700732 / 700832**

The technology applications curriculum has four strands: foundations, information acquisition, work in solving problems, and communication. Through the study of technology applications foundations, including technology-related terms, concepts, and data input strategies; students learn to make informed decisions about technologies and their applications. Students will identify task requirements; plan for using search strategies; and use technology to access, analyze, and evaluate acquired information.

### **Media Publications (Grade 8) 150832**

Students will read examples of multiple types of journalism and media. They will learn the structures and development of this genre, eventually developing their own journalism skills. In addition, they will be expected to participate in one or more of the school media publications such as the school newspaper, morning show, social media and yearbook.

### **PALS (Grade 8) 932832**

Peers Accepting Learning and Sharing is a course that provides students a chance to participate in a school based peer assistance program designed to empower students to help younger students enjoy a more positive and productive school experience. An adult sponsor conducts the selection process, facilitates in-class training and coordinates program activities.

### **STEM I- Discovery (Grades 6, 7, or 8) 256632 /256732 /256832**

The STEM I course focuses on introductory concepts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This hands-on course will study the history of STEM education, the development of technology, and careers in STEM including STEM in agriculture, architecture, construction, computer science, engineering, health sciences, information and technology, manufacturing and transportation, distribution and logistics.

### **STEM II- Makers (Grades 6, 7, or 8) 254632 /254732 /254832**

The STEM II course focuses on innovation and design. This hands-on course will study the history and future of STEM, the evolution of technology, innovations in America and the community, copyrights and patenting, design and sketching, prototyping, coding, and the maker movement.

### **STEM III- Engineers (Grades 7 or 8) 257732 / 257832**

The STEM III course focuses on technology and engineering and its application throughout career and technical education with heavy emphasis on engineering. This hands-on course will study occupational health and safety, the history and future of engineering, engineering design, 2D & 3D design and scale models.

**Learning Path- (Grades 6, 7 or 8) 850632 /850732 /850832**

Learning Path is designed to emphasize learner-specific goals and objectives. Students work individually and in small groups on targeted learning goals to meet their individual needs with the goal of obtaining grade level mastery in ELA and/or mathematics.

**Activities of Daily Living (Grades 6, 7 and 8) 971635/971735/971835**

The Activities of Daily Living courses integrate the domestic, recreation, leisure, school, and community domains. Students investigate through activity-based sessions and a variety of activities associated with the daily living experience including organizing a daily routine and schedule. Students will participate in activities that will promote independence and self-help skills such as but not limited to preparing, cooking, and presenting food, basic hygiene such as hair, teeth, and clothing, and basic cleaning such as sweeping and mopping floors, washing, drying and putting away dishes and washing, drying and folding clothes.

*\*The decision to enroll a student in this course is made by the ARD committee.*

**Occupational Preparations (Grades 6, 7 and 8) 972635/972735/972835**

Occupational Preparation prepares students to handle situations that might include safety, understanding job responsibilities, time requirements and management, relationships, task commitment, accepting feedback from persons in positions of authority, organizational skills, conduct, endurance to assigned tasks and acceptance of job requirements.

*\*The decision to enroll a student in this course is made by the ARD committee.*

**Personal Social Skills (Grades 6, 7 and 8) 978635/978735/978835**

The personal/social skills courses emphasize interpersonal skill development so that students can interact with family, peers and adults that they interact with on a daily basis. Skills of verbal communication, appropriate physical contact and body language, expression of anger or disagreement, reporting inappropriate behaviors of others, and the ability to develop trust and work cooperatively are introduced and frequently reinforced. As the student moves through the levels of instruction, skills build and expand to promote successful communication with others.

*\*The decision to enroll a student in this course is made by the ARD committee.*

## Grading Information

SAISD ensures that sufficient time is provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

Campuses provide instruction in a variety of arrangements and settings designed to permit flexible learning needs for developmentally appropriate instruction for all student populations to support student attainment of course and grade-level standards. Upon early indication of a student's unsatisfactory performance, the parents should be notified of the student's deficiency. Three-week progress reports will be sent home for all students.

SAISD middle schools are on a 9 week grading schedule with two grading periods per semester and two semesters of approximately 90 days each per school year. Teachers will report grades numerically in electronic grade books and on report cards. Student grades and attendance are available for parents to view through Parent Access Center.

The final report card will act as the student's transcript for that school year. Students will receive credits and grade points by semester averages. State law requires 90% attendance to receive credit.

## Advanced Academics

### Gifted and Talented Program

San Angelo ISD offers a program for identified gifted students in kindergarten through grade twelve. Middle school students are served in the four core areas of English, math, science, and social studies. Middle school students are clustered in the Pre-AP sections. Identified gifted students receive appropriate enrichment and extension, to include research and independent study, within the framework of these settings.

<b>Are Advanced Academic courses right for you?</b>			
<b>Academic Preparation</b>	<b>Habits of Mind &amp; Study Skills</b>	<b>Family &amp; Personal Commitments</b>	<b>Future Goals</b>
<p>How would teachers/family describe your strengths?</p> <p>What are your strong subjects?</p> <p>Are your current grades a reflection of your effort/ability?</p> <p>Are you satisfied with your current level of challenge?</p> <p>How have you performed on STAAR, PSAT and classroom assessments?</p>	<p>How do you study, take notes, and stay organized?</p> <p>When you are confused or absent, do you ask for help and/or access campus resources?</p> <p>Do you value hard work and challenging course content over GPA?</p>	<p>Are your goals and your parents' goals for the future the same?</p> <p>What are your family and extracurricular commitments outside the school day? How do you balance commitments?</p> <p>Are you absent six days or less per semester?</p>	<p>What are your career interests?</p> <p>What education is required?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-year/2-year University</li> <li>• Career/Technology</li> <li>• Apprenticeship</li> <li>• Military</li> </ul> <p>Do your selected courses help you reach your goal?</p>

Pre-AP courses are designed to challenge motivated students and prepare them for success in college-level coursework in high school and beyond. These courses move at a faster pace, are more academically challenging, require additional outside reading, and require more independent learning than on-level courses.

When selecting advanced courses, it is important to consider the following:

- Students develop academic readiness at different rates and may not be ready for Pre-AP at the same time as their friends or classmates.
- While Pre-AP courses are designed to prepare students for advanced academic coursework, Pre-AP courses are not a requirement for enrolling in AP courses.
- Pre-AP is not “all or nothing.” Students may take one or more of their core classes as Pre-AP.
- For most courses, it is possible to move from on-level to Pre-AP sections from one year to the next. In mathematics, it is more difficult due to the acceleration and compacting of the curriculum in 6th and 7th grades. A student who moves from on-level to Pre-AP mathematics may require additional support in making the transition.

### **Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP)**

Pre-Advanced Placement courses are designed to prepare students for high school AP courses. The Pre-AP courses available in middle school are English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students are encouraged to take Pre-AP courses that are appropriate to their interests and academic strengths. The number of recommended Pre-AP courses varies with the student’s motivation, self-discipline, and available time outside of class. After careful review of the indicators of success, if a student meets the characteristics listed, advanced coursework is recommended.

### **Pre-AP Indicators of Probable Success**

#### **English/Language Arts**

**Masters standard** on previous year STAAR Reading  
**-OR-**

Previous year ELA final grade average of 85, or 75 in advanced course  
**-AND-**

**Meets standard** on previous year STAAR Reading

#### **Mathematics**

**Masters standard** on previous year STAAR Math  
**-OR-**

Previous year Math final grade average of 85, or 75 in advanced course  
**-AND-**

**Meets standard** on previous year STAAR Math

#### **Social Studies**

**Masters standard** on previous year STAAR Reading  
**-OR-**

Previous year Social Studies final grade average of 85, or 75 in advanced course  
**-AND-**

**Meets standard** on previous year STAAR Reading

#### **Science**

**Masters standard** on previous year STAAR Math  
**-OR-**

Previous year Science final grade average of 85, or 75 in advanced course  
**-AND-**

**Meets standard** on previous year STAAR Math

### **Choosing Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP)**

SAISD is committed to identifying and encouraging students with potential for success, communicating the value of college-rigor coursework, supporting advanced academic instruction, and providing students with opportunities for success. Our teachers are committed to encouraging student participation and success, planning for student learning, providing rigorous, quality instruction, and offering assistance for struggling students.

*Students enrolled in **Pre-AP** courses are expected to maintain at least a 70 average. Student grades will be reviewed each grading report cycle (4 ½ weeks.) In the event that the grade is below a 70 average, students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators should discuss: steps for improvement, student supports necessary for success, and potential outcomes for not meeting grade expectations. The teacher must develop a targeted improvement plan for students. Examples of strategies for the intervention plan may include, but are not limited to: parent/teacher communication, assignment calendar/organizational strategies provided by the teacher and made available to both student and parent, and opportunities for reteach/retest/redo for mastery of objectives.*

### **Petition for Pre-AP Course Exit**

To ensure that students allow sufficient time to become acclimated to the courses and what the Pre-AP curriculum can offer, SAISD expects that any student who enrolls in a Pre-AP course will remain in the course until the first half of the first grading cycle (4 ½ weeks). At that time, a student may request a Petition for Pre-AP Course Exit. Exit processes are in place to assist students in making sound course selection decisions. The petition for exit requires that the student has conferenced with their teacher about their performance and has implemented recommendations for improvement. *When a student moves from a Pre-AP class to a grade level class, a grade adjustment will be made to grades to give credit for time spent in the weighted class.*

## **Special Programs Information**

### **Special Education Services**

Each school has the responsibility for providing educational and related services to students in the least restrictive environment, and students with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in educational programs and activities with students without disabilities.

The school district curriculum enables each student with disabilities to acquire knowledge and skills in the basic areas of learning commensurate with the student's needs and abilities. These skills may be attained in the general program of instruction or through special education instruction and related services, as determined by the admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee.

The following courses are available to students served by special education and course selection is decided during end-of-year ARD meetings held in the spring semester:

- **Specialized Support Modified (SSM) Math, Reading, and Writing**—modified curriculum taught by a special education teacher.
- **Co-Teach in Core Subjects**—regular curriculum taught by the classroom teacher and special education teacher.
- **Support Facilitated in Core Subjects**—regular curriculum taught by classroom teacher with support from special education 2 – 5 times a week.



### **Section 504 Services**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination and assures that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. Eligible students have a record of, or are regarded as having a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits at least one major life activity, including functions such as learning, self-care, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, and performing manual tasks. For additional information contact the campus principal or campus counselor.

### **English as a Second Language**

State Law requires school districts to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) in the middle schools and high schools whose populations include ELL (English Language Learners). Students in pre-kindergarten through high school who speak or hear a language other than English in their home and who have difficulty in the English language are eligible. Parent approval is required for students to participate in the program. The ESL program assesses student progress annually in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Certified and specially trained teachers teach language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies using strategies appropriate for second language learners.