

AP/PreAP Course Commitment- Grades 9-12

Mansfield ISD recognizes the value of student participation in advanced academic coursework. We encourage students to graduate from high school with 24+ college hours as outlined in guiding statement number three of the district's Vision 20/20. Students who participate are more likely to complete a bachelor's degree in college and typically have higher college GPA's (Hargrove, Godin and Dodd, 2007; Dodd and King, 2008). The intent of this commitment is to maximize each student's potential for success in AP and PreAP courses.

Choosing Advanced Academics

PreAP and AP courses are designed to challenge students beyond grade-level academic courses and prepare them for success in future advanced coursework. Students may require additional encouragement and support from both family and campus to be successful in advanced academics. Students who opt to participate in AP or PreAP must successfully complete prerequisite coursework and demonstrate mastery on course-related state-mandated performance assessments prior to enrollment in the course.

Campus Commitment

The campus commits to advanced academics by communicating the value of advanced coursework, recruiting students with potential for success, encouraging student commitment, and supporting advanced academic instruction.

Student Commitment

The student commits to advanced academics by recognizing the long term benefits of participation and seeking assistance when needed. As a student enrolled in an AP or PreAP course:

- I understand that advanced academics courses may seem challenging at first and initial grades may not reflect later grades in that course.
- In the event that I encounter difficulties with the course content, I will conference with my teacher about my progress and attend recommended tutorials.
- I understand that course changes will be contingent on space availability, extenuating circumstances, the teacher's appraisal of my potential for success in the course, and the timing of the request.
- I understand that successful completion of an AP exam can yield college credit.
- I understand that participation in advanced coursework prepares me well for college, increases my chances of finishing a college degree in four years and earning a higher college GPA.
- I understand advanced academic courses may require additional study commitments outside of the classroom.

Parent Commitment

The parent commits to advanced academics by supporting student learning in the advanced academic course; by supporting teacher efforts to provide rigorous, quality instruction; and by valuing the learning that occurs in the advanced academic course. As a parent of a student enrolled in an AP or PreAP course:

- I will encourage my child to be prepared for class each day.
- I understand that advanced academic courses may seem challenging at first and initial grades may not reflect later grades in the course.
- If my child encounters difficulties with the course content, I will expect my child to conference with the teacher and attend recommended tutorials.
- Prior to initiating a petition for my child to exit the course, I will contact the teacher for his/her input.
- I understand that schedule changes will be contingent on space availability, extenuating circumstances, the teacher's appraisal of my child's potential for success in the course, and the timing of the request.
- I will support my child when they have additional study commitments.

Teacher Commitment

The teacher commits to advanced academics by encouraging student participation and success, planning for student learning, providing rigorous, quality instruction, and offering assistance for struggling students. As a teacher of an AP or PreAP course:

- I will teach the course following the curriculum developed by MISD and as authorized by College Board (AP Courses).
- I will provide instruction that prepares students for the next level advanced academic course.
- I will provide quality instruction at an advanced level and give ample opportunities for students to be successful.
- I will assign work that is meaningful and relevant to the required learning goals.
- I know that students are enrolled in many other courses and that workload for this course must not be unreasonably time consuming.
- I will provide appropriate tutorial opportunities for students who have difficulty with course content.

Pre-Advanced Placement/ Advanced Placement Commitment Letter for Students Entering Grades 9-12

MISD Open Access Philosophy: The Mansfield ISD believes that all students who are willing to undertake the challenge of rigorous coursework should have that opportunity. Students who have taken the prerequisite courses and have an interest can enroll in Pre-AP/AP classes.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Entering Grade: _____ Pre-AP/AP Course(s): _____

Each student who plans to register for a Pre-AP and/or AP course should understand the requirements outlined below. Students with questions or concerns about the requirements should contact their counselor for further clarification. Both parent and student should review and sign this commitment letter.

Pre-AP / AP Courses

- Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses cover the grade-level state-mandated curriculum with greater depth and complexity.
- Advanced Placement (AP) Courses provide college level studies for high school students who desire and are ready to do college level work. These students demonstrate a strong curiosity about the subject and a willingness to complete hard work. AP courses are taught using college level materials and strategies that will prepare students to take the College Board Advanced Placement Examinations in May. Mansfield ISD currently offers our students more than 30 AP courses. Because of the intensity of AP courses, students should expect the pace and academic rigor of AP classes to be more stringent than regular classes at the same grade level. Taking AP courses demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought out the most rigorous course work available to them.

I understand the commitment involved in taking a course at this level. I have read and understood the expectations of enrollment and exit guidelines on page 2 and wish to register for the classes listed above.

Student signature _____

Date _____

I have read this letter and understand the commitment my son/daughter is making to the program. I understand and will support my student's efforts to meet the expectations and guidelines provided.

Parent/ Guardian signature _____

Date _____

Mansfield ISD is excited to provide an opportunity for your student to take such a rigorous academic course, and we commend both you and your student for accepting such a challenging opportunity.

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ENROLLED IN Pre-AP/AP COURSES UNTIL THIS COMMITMENT LETTER IS SIGNED BY THE STUDENT AND THE PARENT/GUARDIAN. ATTACH THIS TO YOUR COURSE SELECTION SHEET.