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Spring  
Branch

Independent School District

# Parent U: Preparing Understanding Advanced Course Options

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Advanced Academic Studies**

# Topics for Today

- ★ Pre-AP and AP Defined
- ★ AP, DC, DE, IB, ECP
- ★ What Colleges think
- ★ Homework and Organization
- ★ Graduation Pathways and Beyond



# PRE-AP

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## Know Your Campus...

- ★ Middle Schools vary in programming
- ★ Some schools have all core classes Pre-AP each year
- ★ Some don't have Pre-AP science until 8<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Some have pure GT/Pre-AP classes
- ★ Other are blended GT/non-GT

Advanced Classes prepare students for LIFE...

# Pre-AP and AP Defined

- ★ Both are part of the AP Program
- ★ Pre-AP courses add strategies to prepare students for AP courses
- ★ AP courses prepare students for the rigor of college.
- ★ Both help improve writing skills, problem-solving techniques, and study habits.

# Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP<sup>®</sup>)

- ★ Designed by SBISD curriculum teams to add depth and strategies.
- ★ Designed to engage students
- ★ Do not have end of year standard exam.
- ★ Currently not overseen by College Board.
- ★ Do provide a GPA bump in high school.

# Who Takes Pre-AP?

- ★ Anyone who chooses the challenge
- ★ SBISD has a commitment to open access
- ★ GT Students
- ★ Students that enjoy an intellectual challenge
- ★ Some recommendations in place

# Pre-AP®

- ★ Move at a faster pace
- ★ Require more independent learning
- ★ Require more homework
- ★ Stretches intellectual muscles
- ★ Be cautious about packing a schedule



# Pre-AP<sup>®</sup>



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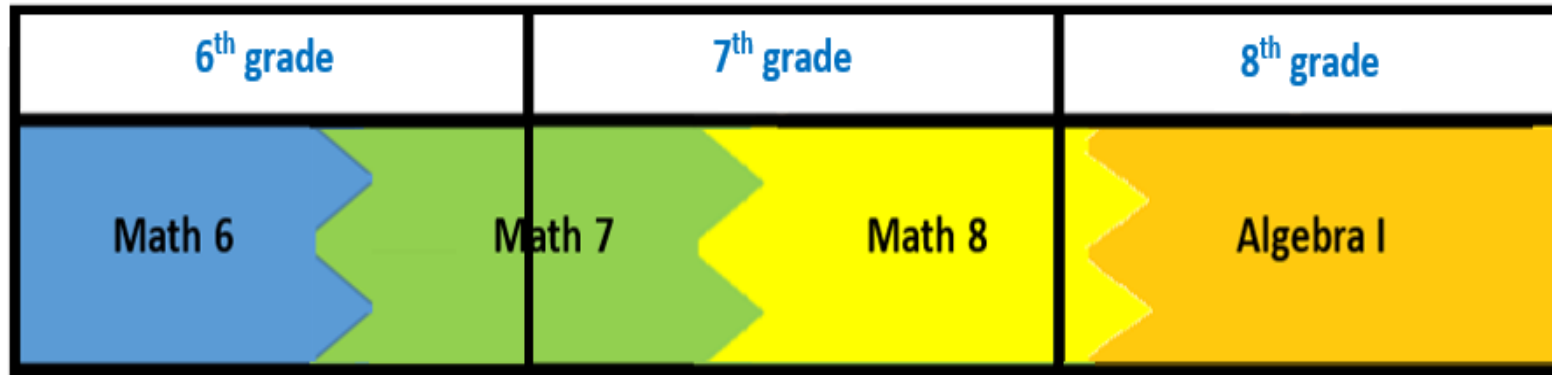
# Math Options

- ★ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la\\_R8VcDAUM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la_R8VcDAUM) – **video if you are reviewing at home**

# Math Course Sequences

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>No Acceleration</b>						
6 <sup>th</sup> Math	7 <sup>th</sup> Math	8 <sup>th</sup> Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Adv. Math
<b>One Year Acceleration</b>						
6 <sup>th</sup> PAP/GT	7 <sup>th</sup> PAP/GT	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus
<b>Two Year Acceleration</b>						
7 <sup>th</sup> PAP/GT	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	AP Statistics	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus

# One Year Acceleration – Curriculum Sequence



Eligibility: Students should be at “meets expectations” on 5<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR

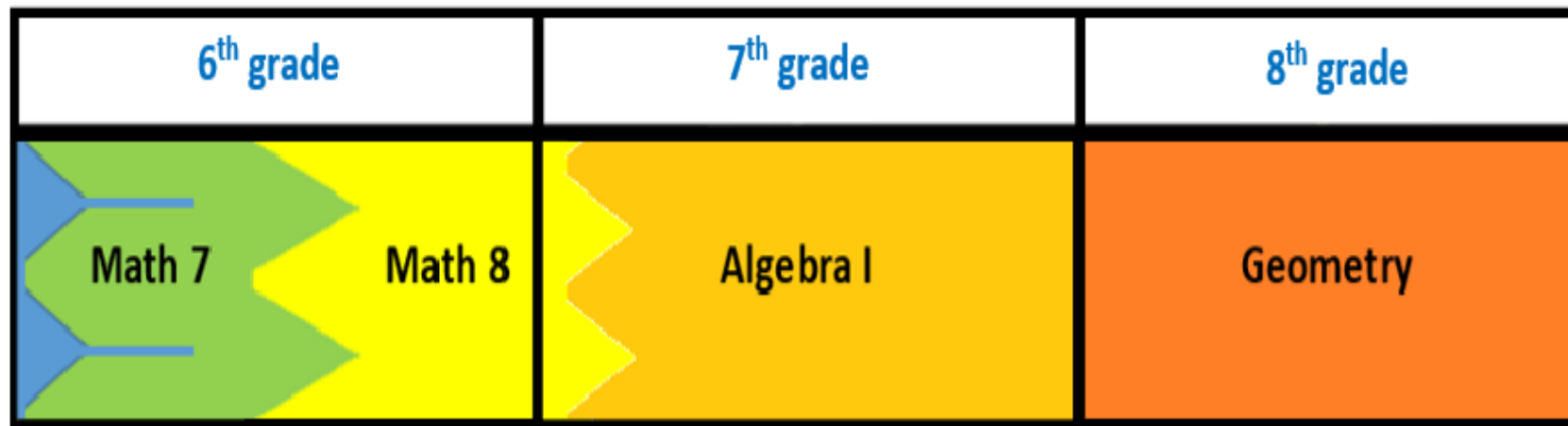
Choose on course selection form

STAAR test – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

Algebra In 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Geometry in 9<sup>th</sup> or summer school before 9<sup>th</sup>

## Two Year Acceleration – Curriculum Sequence



Eligibility: Two Options:

1. Summer Jump Start Program
2. Credit by Exam for 6<sup>th</sup> grade math

STAAR test – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

Algebra In 7<sup>th</sup> grade with End of Course exam  
Geometry in 8th

# Is acceleration in mathematics right for your child?

*The One Year Acceleration Option may be appropriate if  
your child:*

- Scores at least scale score 1625 (Final Recommended Level 2) on STAAR 5 Math
- Learns math easily
- Loves the learning
- Does not need a lot of help to do homework

# Is acceleration in mathematics right for your child?

*The Two Year Acceleration Option may be appropriate.*

**Students must score an 80% or higher on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Credit by Exam prior to entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade to qualify.**

*Exam given in spring & summer*

Parents should consider having their student take the Credit by Exam if student:

- Is identified as Gifted & Talented in Mathematics (typical, but not required)
- Scores at least 1881 on STAAR 5 Math (94% correct)
- Is passionate about math and/or science—studies topics on his or her own
- Seems to know math before it is even taught!

# Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>)

- ★ Course frameworks and standards developed by the College Board.
- ★ Teacher must submit a course syllabus to be approved yearly.
- ★ School maintains a roster of their approved courses.
- ★ Standard exam offered at the end of each year (optional)
- ★ Provide College Credit



# Which AP Course are Offered?

- **Arts: Art History, Music Theory, Studio Art: Drawing Portfolio, Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio, Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio**
- **English: English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition**
- **History and Social Sciences: European History, Human Geography\*, Macroeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, World History**
- **Mathematics: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics**
- **Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1 & 2\*, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, Physics C: Mechanics, Computer Science**
- **World languages: French Language and Culture, German Language and Culture Spanish Language, Spanish Literature and Culture**
- **AP Capstone Program and Diploma**



# THE BENEFITS

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# Expanding Student Options

- ★ Introduces students to the challenge of college level courses
- ★ College level credit being earned
- ★ Faster entrance to upper level college courses.
- ★ Expand academic interests

- ★ Improves “soft skills” – critical thinking, analysis, team work, project management, problem solving

- ★ Saves money!

- ★ <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>



AP/DC/EPC/DE  
...OH MY!

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# Advanced Placement (AP)

- ★ Rigorous, college-level coursework for high school credit
- ★ Students prepare for and take AP exams
- ★ Colleges use AP exam scores to award college credit
- ★ SBISD instructors
- ★ Open access to SBISD students
- ★ Exam primarily paid for by parent

# International Baccalaureate (IB)

- ★ Only offered at Westchester Academy (WAIS)
- ★ IB exams take place Junior and Senior year
- ★ IB prep begins in middle school
- ★ Students have the option to graduate with an IB diploma.
- ★ Teachers go through content and model specific training to follow IB standards.
- ★ Exam are mainly paid for by parents

## Dual Credit (DC)

- ★ Rigorous college coursework that has been cross-walked with high school classes
- ★ College credit earned and placed on college transcript (HCC). Transferrable in Texas
- ★ SBISD instructors embedded at SBISD campuses
- ★ Partnership with HCC – tuition waived
- ★ Must meet college-readiness standards



## Early College Program (ECP)

- ★ Rigorous college coursework that has been cross-walked with high school classes
- ★ College credit earned and placed on college transcript (HCC). Transferrable in Texas
- ★ HCC instructors at HCC Spring Branch and SHS and SWHS
- ★ Partnership with HCC – tuition waived
- ★ Must meet college-readiness standards

# Early College Program

- ★ Students may earn 24-30 college credit hours
- ★ Working toward additional offerings

# On Ramps – Concurrent Enrollment

- ★ SBISD teachers partner with UT professors.
- ★ Students enrolled in the SBSID course and the UT course.
- ★ Separate gradebooks and grades.
- ★ Same assignments
- ★ Student may deny the UT credit
- ★ No cost to student
- ★ Courses vary by campus



# AND COLLEGES?

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# It makes a difference

- ★ AP performance impact admissions decisions.
- ★ AP and Advanced coursework shows strength of schedule
- ★ College prep work and strength of curriculum – Top 2 Factors in admissions

# Curriculum Evaluation

- ★ Students evaluated based on courses available at their High School.
- ★ Students compared between like high schools.
- ★ AP Course grade vs. AP Test Score Results
- ★ Strength of course selection over time.

# What about the GPA?

- ★ Final Transcript and Grade Evaluation
- ★ Only core content advanced courses are weighted.
- ★ Senior year performance
- ★ Bonus thought...



# PLAN FOR SUCCESS

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# Organization

- ★ Planner, Family Calendar, Bullet Journal, etc.
- ★ Book Studies – parent or student
- ★ Set aside time for activities and study
- ★ Build class schedule accordingly

# Homework

- ★ Homework
- ★ Reasonable Expectations
- ★ Skyward Family Access
- ★ Teacher Communication
- ★ Growth Mindset / Grit
- ★ Plan for failure

# They are still kids...

- ★ Extracurricular Activities
- ★ Advanced Movers and Athletics
- ★ Electives
- ★ Expect social changes
- ★ Monitor technology
- ★ Constantly shifting

# But they do grow up...

## ★ Graduation Endorsements...

- ◆ STEM
- ◆ Business and Industry
- ◆ Public Service
- ◆ Arts and Humanities
- ◆ Multidisciplinary Studies

## ★ Choose in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Developing Interests

- ★ Clubs and Electives
- ★ Summer Camps and Programs
- ★ Career Days
- ★ College Visits
- ★ Networking

# Interest Surveys

- ★ Briggs-Meyer
- ★ Big Future:
- ★ Shmoop:
- ★ Thrively
- ★ Princeton Review Career Quiz:
- ★ What color is my parachute?



# How Do I Help?

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# Tips for Supporting your Student

- ★ Course Selection – Select what they NEED, what will BENEFIT
- ★ Practice Working Under a Time Limit
- ★ Devote the Time
- ★ Practice Delayed Gratification
- ★ Learn to Structure Days/time
- ★ Have a Plan for Failure



# Tips for Supporting your Student

- ★ Believe in Teamwork
- ★ Set Goals
- ★ Reflect to Build Self Awareness
- ★ Celebrate Success
- ★ Provide a place
- ★ Be involved (review the work, know the teacher)

# Other Resources

- ★ [www.shmoop.com](http://www.shmoop.com) – AP, SAT, ACT test prep – free services for SBISD students.
- ★ [www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy)
- ★ [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- ★ [www.Khanacademy.org](http://www.Khanacademy.org) – free tutorials and support, SAT prep
- ★ Naviance
- ★ On Ramps Website

# For More Information

- ★ **Your School Counselor**
- ★ **AP / Pre-AP / GT**
- ★ **[Amy.Ellingson@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Amy.Ellingson@springbranchisd.com)**