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Spring
Branch

Independent School District

Parent U: Preparing Understanding Advanced Course Options

**Amy Ellingson, Facilitator for
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 8th
- ★ 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[®])

- ★ 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[®]



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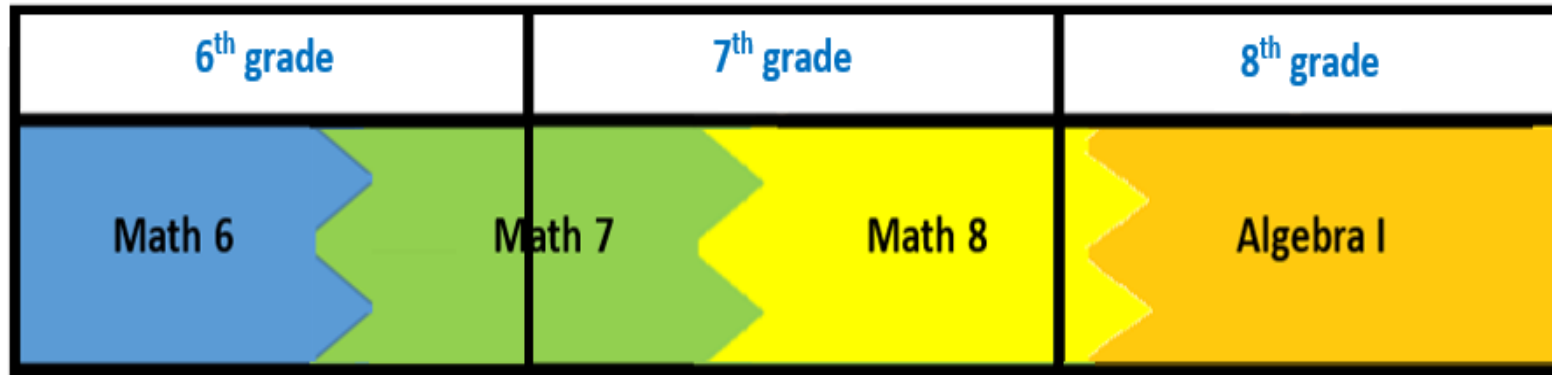
Math Options

- ★ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la_R8VcDAUM – **video if you are reviewing at home**

Math Course Sequences

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
No Acceleration						
6 th Math	7 th Math	8 th Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Adv. Math
One Year Acceleration						
6 th PAP/GT	7 th PAP/GT	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus
Two Year Acceleration						
7 th 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 5th grade STAAR

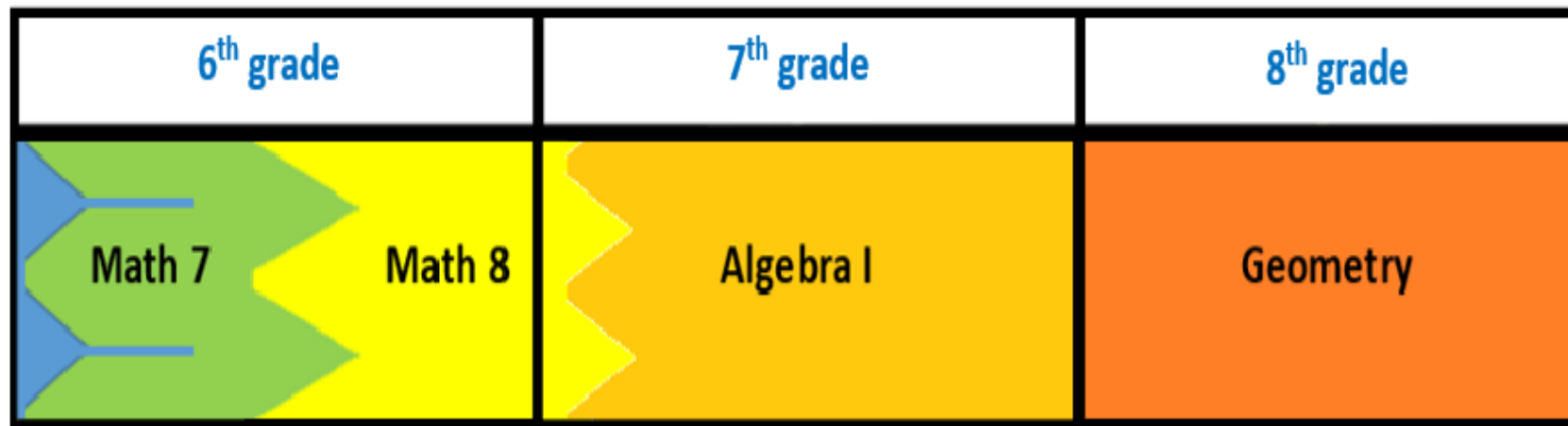
Choose on course selection form

STAAR test – 6th Grade Math

Algebra In 8th grade

Geometry in 9th or summer school before 9th

Two Year Acceleration – Curriculum Sequence



Eligibility: Two Options:

1. Summer Jump Start Program
2. Credit by Exam for 6th grade math

STAAR test – 7th Grade Math

Algebra In 7th 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 6th grade Credit by Exam prior to entering 6th 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®)

- ★ 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 8th 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 – AP, SAT, ACT test prep – free services for SBISD students.
- ★ www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy
- ★ www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- ★ 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**