



# Hays Consolidated Independent School District

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The purpose of this Letter of Understanding is to provide information to parents and students and to facilitate students' success in academically challenging courses. Pre-AP and AP courses stimulate and challenge students to perform at an advanced academic level. Therefore, Pre-AP and AP coursework requires students to engage in more independent analytical reading and writing assignments, both inside and outside of the classroom. While Pre-AP and AP courses are open to any student wishing to enroll, parents and students should consider the extra effort required of students who typically experience success in Pre-AP and AP courses. The decision to enroll in Pre-AP and AP courses ultimately rests with the parents and the students.

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is a cooperative endeavor between secondary schools, the College Board, and colleges and universities. It gives high school students exposure to college-level material through involvement in an AP course, and then gives them an opportunity to show what they have learned by taking an AP Exam. Colleges and universities often grant credit, placement, or both, to students who are successful in the course and on the AP exam. Students can find colleges with AP credit policies by visiting AP Credit Policy Info. <http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy>.

The content and curricular goals of each AP discipline are outlined in an AP Course Description supplied by the College Board. AP courses are characterized by an immersion in college-level content, an accelerated pace, and a performance assessment at the synthesis and evaluative levels. Typically, successful AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers, and able to prioritize time effectively. The AP program prepares students for the future by introducing tools that will serve them well throughout their college career.

Pre-AP courses are academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The curricula for the courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) expectations for each course.

Students are encouraged to take Pre-AP and AP courses that are appropriate to their interests and academic strengths. The number of Pre-AP and AP courses a student takes also varies with students' motivation, self-discipline, and available time outside of class. Pre-AP Courses are rigorous and may require extra commitment and work.

Due to the rigor, high level of expectation and preparation time required in Pre-AP and AP courses, students and parents must submit a signed letter of understanding at the start of the school year.

Confirmation of receipt of this Letter of Understanding will be completed by electronic signature through the online student registration process for the 2020-21 school year.

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**General Course Expectations:**

- Successful completion of each Pre-AP and AP course requires additional hours of individual study time outside of class on a regular basis.
- For a student whose grade average for the first semester is less than 70, a student-parent-teacher-counselor conference may be held to evaluate the advisability of the student remaining in the class.
- **Students are encouraged to take the AP exam** for every AP course in which they are enrolled during the 2020-21 school year. The exams are given over a two-week period in May. Hays CISD supplements the cost of AP exams. Students may also apply for additional financial assistance.
- Guidelines for grading shall be clearly communicated to students and parents. In accordance with grading guidelines, a student shall be permitted a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade. (Board Policy EIA (Local))
- Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty may be subject to disciplinary and academic penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. (Board Policy EIA (Local))

**Exit Policy/Process**

- Attend a documented student/parent/teacher conference
- Obtain an Exit Conference Course Drop Form from the counseling office
- Attend a conference between student, parent/guardian, teacher, and principal or designee. If the request is approved, schedule changes will be subject to course availability. If a student transfers out of a Pre-AP or AP class, the student's grades will directly transfer to the course into which the student enters if the course is a different level course of the same subject.

**Student Agreement:**

In signing up for this Pre-AP and/or AP course, I agree to organize my time and effort to successfully complete all work in this rigorous course. I have read the course description, and I agree to the college preparatory and college level requirements and expectations of the class. I understand that I may need to seek additional help from my teacher outside of class.

**Parent or Guardian Agreement:**

I understand the expectations of this Pre-AP and/or AP course, and I agree to support and encourage my son/daughter in his/her endeavors in the course. I will notify the teacher of any concerns relating to the course or my student's progress. I understand that my son/daughter may need to seek additional help from the teacher outside of class.

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## Hays Consolidated Independent School District Pre-AP Course List

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6<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Math  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Math  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra 1 Pre-AP  
Algebra I Pre-AP  
Geometry Pre-AP  
Algebra II Pre-AP  
Pre-Calculus Pre-AP

7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Pre-AP  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts Pre-AP  
English I Pre-AP  
English II Pre-AP

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Pre-AP  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Pre-AP  
Biology 1 Pre-AP  
Chemistry 1 Pre-AP

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Texas History Pre-AP  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History Pre-AP  
World Geography Pre-AP

French III Pre-AP  
German III Pre-AP  
Spanish III Pre-AP

## Hays Consolidated Independent School District AP Course List

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AP Statistics  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC

AP English III: English Language and Composition  
AP English IV: English Literature and Composition  
AP Seminar  
AP Research

AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based  
AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based  
AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism  
AP Physics C: Mechanics  
AP Environmental Science

AP Human Geography  
AP World History  
AP United States History  
AP United States Government & Politics  
AP Macroeconomics  
AP Comparative Government & Politics  
AP Psychology  
AP European History

AP French IV: Language and Culture  
AP German IV: Language and Culture  
AP Spanish IV: Language and Culture  
AP Spanish V: Literature and Culture

AP Studio Art Drawing Portfolio  
AP Studio Art/2-D Design Portfolio  
AP Studio Art/3-D Design Portfolio  
AP Art History  
AP Music Theory

AP Computer Science A  
AP Computer Science Principles

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