

What is a Pre-AP Science course?

Pre-AP Science is a rigorous course that emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving. It is recommended only for students who have an intense interest in the exploration of science. Pre-AP courses are designed to teach students the skills necessary to be successful in AP (Advanced Placement) courses in High School. Although students will learn the same content as Regular Level courses, Pre-AP Science will move faster in order to go more in depth.

What can I expect in a Pre-AP Science course?

Students in Pre-AP Science course can expect to:

- Extend their knowledge and apply scientific skills through complex problem-solving and inquiry-based labs.
- Carry out independent scientific research projects and analytical assignments outside the classroom.
- Complete varying amounts of weekly homework (as pertains to the topic at hand).
- Read and write extensively in and out of class.
- Respond to open-ended test questions on classroom assessments.
- Pass CBA assessments (district testing) that are more challenging than those in a Regular Level course.

What are the requirements for a Pre-AP Science course?

Students must:

- Have a strong personal commitment to complete the requirements of the course.
- Maintain a passing grade of at least 70% each nine-week grading period.
- Pass all STAAR exams the previous school year.
- Participate in the campus Science Fair.

What if I am unable to maintain a passing grade of at least 70%?

After six weeks, struggling students will be advised by their science teachers of the need for improvement. Those who fail to demonstrate mastery of course material with a passing grade of at least 70% during any nine-week grading period will be moved to a Regular Level course. This schedule change will often impact other portions of a student's schedule as well.

What if I change my mind about taking a Pre-AP Science course?

Course changes must be made within the first three weeks of the semester and may not be made after that deadline.

I understand the commitment involved in taking a course at this level. I have read and understand what is expected of me, and I am making a full commitment to a Pre-AP Science course for the school year.

Student signature _____

Date _____

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

Parent/ Guardian signature _____

Date _____