

Pre-Advanced Placement Algebra 2 at James Bowie High School

Pre-AP mathematics courses are designed for those students who show high levels of aptitude for, interest in, and/or commitment to the study of mathematics. The courses will cover and extend the State required curriculum in both content and depth. Each course is aligned with the College Board's recommendations and prepares students to be successful in college level courses. As you and your student consider academic and extra-curricular commitments for the 2010-2011 school year, it is imperative to consider the following before enrolling in a Pre-AP mathematics course.

- The pace of Pre-AP courses is faster than that of the academic mathematics courses.
- It will be assumed that students in Pre-AP math courses have mastered the material from all previous math courses. In general, review of concepts that were developed in the prior mathematics courses will be minimal.
- Daily attendance and daily review of class notes are crucial for a thorough understanding of the concepts.
- Students should expect an average of 30 to 60 minutes of homework outside of class per day.
- Assessments are rigorous, and approximately 70% of the course grade is determined by test grades.
- All tests must be completed within a single class period.
- In general, there are no extra credit opportunities. Grades are based almost solely on mastery of the material.

We have found that the following criteria correlate highly with success in Pre-AP mathematics courses:

- Near-perfect attendance. Catching up in a Pre-AP math class can be very difficult.
- Exceptionally high rates of accuracy and timely completion on daily assignments.
- Very high grades (85 and above) in current Pre-AP math class.
- Strong ability to work independently.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.

It is very important that you and your student select courses for next year with careful consideration. ~~June 10th~~ **May 1st** will be the absolute deadline for any student or parent to request changes. This must be done through **written communication** with the data processing office at Bowie. After ~~June 10th~~ **May 1st**, **requests for level changes (pre-AP to academic) will not be considered until a student has been in a class for two weeks. Such requests will go to committee for review and decision.**

The Pre AP Algebra 2 summer packet is required and due on the first day of class. This work will be made available for students by ~~June 10th~~ May 1st. Information can be found at the website jhenson.edublogs.org. Click on the link: **Pre-AP Alg II Summer Pre-work. This work will include:**

Solving linear equations	Applying Laws of Exponents	Factoring (very important)
Solving quadratic equations	Simplifying radicals	Distributive property
Graphing parent functions	Domain and Range	Squaring a binomial
w/o calcs using transformations	Operations with fractions	Multiplying polynomials
Graphing lines/equations of lines	Solving systems of equations	Order of operations

These assignments will be explained fully on the website and useful links will be supplied for completion of this work on the website.

It is important that students learn to face challenges and that they understand the meaning of commitment. Furthermore, students' course selections determine the master schedule, the hiring and reassignment of teachers, and the purchase of classroom materials, so we will strictly adhere to these deadlines.

With their signatures on the James Bowie High School Course Contract, parents and students acknowledge their understanding of the commitment required to succeed in the selected course.