

**Bowie High School**  
**Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders FAQ Sheet**  
[www.jbhs.org](http://www.jbhs.org)



This sheet of Frequently Asked Questions is designed to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision when considering whether or not to take Pre-AP.

**What is a Pre-AP course?**

Pre-AP courses are designed to teach students the skills necessary to be successful in Junior and Senior level AP (Advanced Placement) courses. In Junior and Senior level AP courses, students may earn college credit by scoring a 3 or higher on the AP exam given each year in May. These classes are very fast paced and content heavy. Pre-AP classes prepare students for these classes by incorporating the skills necessary to be successful in AP classes. Pre-AP students will learn the same content as Academic students, but will move faster in order to go more in depth.

**Which freshmen classes are offered as Pre-AP?**

Freshmen level Pre-AP options include English I, Biology, Algebra I or Geometry I, and World Geography.

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

Students can expect 30 to 60 minutes of homework nightly *for each Pre-AP course taken*. Students can also expect more rigorous work as well as:

- ✓ Independent reading, textbooks, articles, etc
- ✓ Reading and analyzing higher level reading materials
- ✓ Writing free response and document based essays
- ✓ Independent and directed research
- ✓ Independent and directed note-taking
- ✓ Timed assessments

**How many Pre-AP courses should I take?**

Look carefully at **all** of your activities, both in school and out of school, in order to make this decision. Given the **homework load**, students must consider how much time they have available each evening. Students must also consider where their strengths and interests lie.

**What qualities will help me be successful in a Pre-AP class?**

Students who sign up for Pre-AP should:

- ✓ Have near-perfect attendance. Catching up in a Pre-AP class can be very difficult.
- ✓ Have a history of completing assignments accurately and on time.
- ✓ Possess strong organizational and time management skills.
- ✓ Have a strong ability to work independently and/or provide leadership in groups

**What will I have to do over the summer to prepare for a Pre-AP class?**

Pre-AP English and Pre-AP Biology both require summer work. Carefully read each Pre-AP contract found at [www.jbhs.org](http://www.jbhs.org) for details.

**What if I change my mind about the course level I selected?**

The course contract is binding after June 10, 2010. Students must stay in the level of course they indicated on their course contract for at least two weeks to get a true view of what the course is like. After two weeks, a student can apply for a level change and a committee of teachers in that subject area will convene to decide if the change is appropriate for that student. Student course selections determine the master schedule, teacher assignments, and the purchase of classroom materials. Changes will only be considered if space is available.

**Where can I find all of this information online?**

Go to [www.jbhs.org](http://www.jbhs.org) and click on *Counselor's Corner*. On the *Counselor's Corner* page, click on courses. There course contracts, Pre-AP contracts, and information about summer work can be found.