

Central High
(817) 744 - 2000

Fossil Ridge High
(817) 744 - 1700

Keller High
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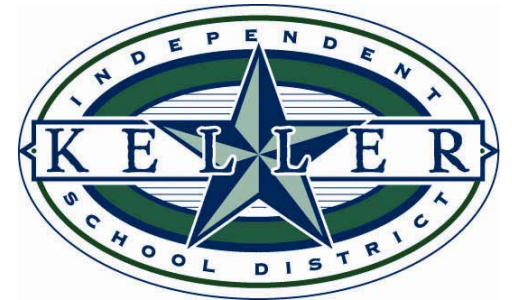
Timber Creek High
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KELLER
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



**ADVANCED
PLACEMENT
(AP)
PROGRAM**

The AP/Pre-AP Program

The Keller Independent School District secondary schools offer students the opportunity to participate in College Board AP and Pre-AP courses so that they may better prepare themselves for college. Because these classes are similar to college level classes, students are challenged to be more disciplined, structured and to perform at a higher academic level.

What is AP?

The AP (Advanced Placement) Program is administered by the College Board of New York. It allows students to participate in college level courses and possibly earn college credit while still attending high school. Secondary schools and colleges cooperate in this program to give students the opportunity to show mastery in college-level courses by taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams in May of each school year.

What is Pre-AP?

The Pre-AP Program is the complementing preparatory program that is designed to provide students with the necessary skills to be successful in AP courses. In KISD, these skills together with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) comprise the syllabi for Pre-AP courses.

What background does my student need in order to succeed in AP and Pre-AP courses?

Any Keller ISD student may enroll in a Pre-AP/AP course. Instruction, materials, and assessment in these classes typically focus on developing skills in analyzing content, drawing comparisons, and problem reasoning. Students will also participate in critical reading instruction, and develop the skill to an independent level. Writing Instruction in Pre-AP/AP classes will assist students in their abilities to produce clear, concise essays. All of these skills are transferable to higher education and study beyond high school, and are usually considered college-level skills. Students who are motivated and willing to exercise self-disciplined study to become advanced in a subject area are encouraged to enroll in Pre-AP/AP classes, as they are an excellent forum for academic preparation and advanced study

What are the advantages of my child taking an AP course?

The main advantage of taking an AP course is better preparation for college. It has been shown that students master in-depth content at the college level more easily after completing AP courses in high school. Students also acquire sophisticated academic skills and increased self-confidence in preparation for college.

Because KISD recognizes the possibility of a higher grade being earned in regular academic classes, at the end of the

semester 10 quality points are added to a passing semester grade in AP and Pre-AP courses which is calculated with their GPA.

Students who succeed on AP exams may receive college credit while still in high school, saving both time and money. Some parents have saved the equivalent of a full year of college and total living expenses for their student.

Finally, scoring well on an AP exam can fulfill requirements of the Texas Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

What is the Distinguished Achievement Program?

The Distinguished Achievement Program is the advanced high school program for Texas students. The program is based on students completing the 26-credit recommended Keller Independent School District high school program. In addition to those credits, students must complete advanced measures at the college or professional level that are assessed by outside evaluators. In order to achieve this distinguished recognition, students must complete any combination of four of the advanced measures listed below:

- ☆ Earn a score of 3 or above on a College Board AP exam or a score of 4 or above on an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam (Each exam score counts as one measure.);
- ☆ A score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher;
- ☆ A grade of 3.0 or higher on courses that count for college credit;
- ☆ Complete original research or project judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project or an appropriate audience (no more than 2 research projects can count toward the advanced measures).

How is college credit earned?

Credit is awarded by universities and colleges based on performance on the AP exams, administered every year in May. Scores range from *No Recommendation (Score of 1)* to *Extremely Qualified (Score of 5)*. Each college determines the scores to be accepted for credit, but most consider a score of at least *Three (3)* as qualifying. Colleges may award three, and sometimes six, hours of credit per test. Students should contact individual colleges to find out about their policies.

How much does it cost to take the qualifying AP Exam?

Currently students pay \$56 for each AP test they choose to take. Opportunities are available for financial need. Please see campus administration for more information.

KISD AP Courses

Art

Art History
Studio Drawing
Studio 2-D Design

Computer Science

Computer Science A

English

Language & Composition
Literature & Composition

Foreign Language

French Language
German Language
Latin Language
Spanish Language
Spanish Literature

Mathematics

Calculus AB
Calculus BC
Statistics

Music

Music Theory

Science

Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Physics B
Physics C

Social Studies

European History
Gov. & Politics Comparative
Gov. & Politics U.S.
Human Geography
Macroeconomics
Psychology
US History
World History

College Board offers examinations in additional topics not offered by Keller ISD which students may choose to take. Students are not required to take an AP course to take an AP exam, however research indicates that students who take AP courses score higher on AP exams than those students who do not take the courses.

Are there other ways to earn college credit besides AP exams?

Yes. Some options are:

- ☆ Dual credit courses that earn both high school and college credit offered through Tarrant County College. These courses are taught at the high school campus by TCC instructors. Tuition and textbook fees may be required (see high school counselor for more details);
- ☆ Concurrent enrollment in college courses while still in high school. Courses may be completed online or at college campus. Such courses receive college credit, and at principal's discretion, may also receive high school credit;
- ☆ CLEP (College Level Examination Program) exams offered by colleges and universities. Check with the office of academic affairs at each college for more information and procedures. Like AP, these tests are also a product of College Board.