

AP/Pre-AP Course Commitment for Elkins High School

Elkins High School recognizes the value of student participation in college-rigor coursework and encourages students to graduate having earned high school credit and potentially college credit from Advanced Placement (AP) courses and Dual Credit, College Now (CN) courses. Participation in AP and CN courses is a foundation of college readiness. Recent research has found that students who participate in Pre-AP and AP courses are more likely to complete a bachelor's degree in college, have higher college GPAs, and prevent having to complete remedial coursework prior to enrolling in "at level" college courses. The intent of this commitment is to maximize each student's potential for success in AP, CN, Pre-AP, and Honors courses.

The following quotes are advice from Elkins students in Pre-AP and AP courses when asked,

"What has helped you be successful in your Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors courses?"

- "Pay close attention in class, keep up with your work, don't fall behind, and stay positive."
- "Read in advance of the teaching to stay ahead, and do not fall behind. Always take good notes."
- "Do all your homework on time; do not procrastinate."
- "Read your notes that night and keep re-reading them. Ask questions when you come to tutoring."
- "Never settle for a C; always try for a higher grade."
- "Our teachers are really helpful- always go to their tutorials when offered, and study hard. Study hard means study ahead- have a basic understanding of the chapter before they start teaching it."

Campus Commitment- *Elkins HS commits to college-rigor coursework by:*

- *Communicating the value of this coursework*
- *Identifying and encouraging students with potential for success to enroll and commit to Pre-AP/AP courses*
- *Supporting advanced academic instruction*
- *Providing students with study skills and tutorial programs*

Student Commitment:

A Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors course is challenging and initial grades may not reflect later performance, especially if it is my first time to take such a course. Therefore, I will make a 9-week commitment to my success in order to allow adequate time to adjust to the rigor that will best prepare me for college.

As a Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors student, I will commit to my academic success by:

- Seeking a higher level of understanding and relevancy of course content
- Completing all homework, reading and assignments under given timeframe, including summer reading/assignments
- Reviewing, revising, and summarizing class notes nightly
- Coming to class having familiarized myself with the day's lesson
- Actively participating in class lessons and discussions
- Taking quality notes (i.e. Cornell Notes) every day
- Asking questions and promptly seeking tutorial assistance as needed
- Conferencing with my teacher in the event that I encounter difficulty
- Staying organized and effectively managing time in and out of the classroom
- Collaborating with peers to help develop a deeper knowledge of the content

Student Signature: _____

Parent Commitment:

As the parent/guardian, I commit to supporting the teacher's efforts to providing rigorous, quality instruction and valuing the learning that occurs in college-rigor coursework.

As a parent of a student enrolled in a Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors course, I will:

- Understand a Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors course is challenging, and initial grades may not reflect later performance, especially if it is my child's first time to take such a course. Therefore, I will support him/her through that adjustment and use improvement as a measure of success.
- Encourage my child to be prepared for class each day.
- Expect my child to conference with the teacher and attend recommended tutorials if my child encounters difficulties with the course content.
- Contact the teacher for his/her input prior to initiating a petition for my child to exit the course.

Parent Signature: _____

Teacher Commitment:

Our Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors teachers commit to encouraging student participation and success, planning for student learning, providing rigorous, quality instruction, and offering assistance for struggling students.

As a teacher of a Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors course, I will:

- Teach the course following the curriculum developed by FBISD and as authorized by College Board (AP courses) or Houston Community College (CN).
- Provide instruction that prepares students for the next level advanced academic course and coursework will be meaningful and relevant to the required learning goals.
- Provide study skills support required to be successful in the course.
- Understand that workload will be reasonable for the course requirements and scope of student's other class commitments.
- Provide opportunities for students to be successful to include appropriate tutorial opportunities for students who have difficulty with course content.

Successfully following through on this commitment could result in:

- Extra GPA points which could also benefit in a higher class rank (except for College Now)
- Exposure to more rigorous coursework and additional learning
- Increased preparation for college including possible college credits

Failure to follow through on this commitment could result in:

- A schedule change that could affect other classes if it is needed at the end of the nine weeks
- The grade in your Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors course transferring to the advanced class

This document is meant to help everyone understand the commitment that Pre-AP/AP/CN/ Honors courses require and help communicate the expectations so all students are successful in these rigorous courses.

For more information, please contact your child's counselor.