

LEAP Information for 2010-2011 Registration

The Curriculum

LEAP pre-AP and AP courses are the gifted and talented alternative to the regular advanced placement track. In order to be eligible to be enrolled in the LEAP program, students must have taken a qualifying test through the LEAP program, or have documentation of taking a similar test in another school district.

The **Social Studies** component of LEAP is a pre-AP or AP level course, requiring the ability and desire to read and write critically and analytically --- to not only memorize the dry facts of the text, but to actually understand and piece together the great story of our beginning and continuation as a country, society, and culture. Additionally, students will be required to practice and learn writing skills for expository/analytical writing and for writing college-level history papers in general.

The **Literature and Culture** component of the course (also pre-AP and AP) focuses on students reading and analyzing literature and literary movements, introducing them to art, music and theatre, and understanding how these cultural phenomena are products of their times. Moreover, students will learn Greek and Latin stems or SAT words as a vocabulary program, and will demonstrate their understanding of the materials through the following methods:

- individual and group projects
- essay tests and analytical papers
- oral presentations
- research reports
- grammar/usage/mechanics review
- creative writing

Additionally, there will be a full preparation for the College Board Advanced Placement World History, English Language, U.S. History, and English Literature tests.

Who Should Take LEAP?

In deciding which track one should pursue, the student and his/her parents need to consider several criteria:

What is the student's learning style? If the student functions better in a collaborative, analytical environment, where creativity and connectivity (finding connections between seemingly unrelated ideas) are valued, then LEAP is a good fit.

How verbal is the student? If the student likes discussions, debates, and enjoys expressing his or her ideas, then LEAP is a good choice.

How will being in LEAP affect AP score? Students in LEAP AP Studies have comparable scores on the College Board advanced placement tests to students in regular AP classes. One of the advantages of being in the LEAP curriculum is that it is a full year course, which means all students will have ample review time in class for the AP World History, the U.S. History, and the AP English Language tests.

Leap and Scheduling

9 Weeks Saving with LEAP!

- LEAP AP American Studies meets every day for the whole school year (36 weeks) and student receives 1 English credit and 1 History credit.
- Regular AP classes require 27 weeks for U.S. History and 18 weeks for English (45 weeks) to receive the same two credits.
- Students receive the same credit in 9 fewer weeks, leaving that time available for a 9 week course, like Economics, U.S. Government, or Psychology.

More Flexibility and In-depth Treatment of the Material

- The teachers in each component of the course coordinate their lesson plans to be covering the same subject matter at the same time. For instance, while the History class is studying the Great Depression, the students are reading *The Grapes of Wrath* by Steinbeck in English.
- They also share their teaching time and access to the students. For instance, if the History teacher needs more time to cover a concept, that flexibility is there by the English teacher giving up some of his/her time with the students.
- The typical week has students in each class two times and either together or in a split period (45 minutes each) on Fridays or following a straight A/B block schedule. Either scheduling offering means there are usually two days between meeting, which allows for more time to complete assignments. Literature classes usually read many more novels than regular pre-AP and AP classes, simply because they have more time.
- In-class review for the AP tests. Though there are supplemental reviews before and after school, the fact that LEAP (except for senior year) is a year-long course gives the teachers the opportunity to incorporate the necessary review for the AP tests in their lesson plans.

The world of history, literature and culture is presented to you by the following LEAP teachers:

LEAP I	Freshman year (both pre-AP)	
	World Literature:	Julie Cummings (2210)
	World Geography:	Tim Greenwell (2205)
LEAP II	Sophomore Year	
	World Lit. (pre-AP):	Brenda Crabtree (2225)
	World History (AP):	Kathy Zalenski (2215)
LEAP III	Junior Year (both AP)	
	American Studies:	Jeremy Werts (1530)
	U.S History:	James Pippin (2515)
LEAP IV	Senior Year (AP)	
	English:	Peter Kenny (1425)
	(No Social Studies component senior year)	

