



# A Bridge to KAP

Katy Advanced Program





# Hello!

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## Goals for this presentation are to...

- Provide information that will assist parents and students in making decisions about secondary course options
- Provide information on advanced course options for grade 6.
- Explain how GT students are served within the secondary setting




# **Katy Advanced Program (KAP) Grades 6-10**

is designed to prepare all students  
for the academic complexity of  
Advanced Placement courses.

# KAP Curriculum in Katy ISD

- Developed with a concentration on building the student's capacity to understand, process, and analyze rigorous content
- Built upon the core academic curriculum
- Academically advanced course of study
  - Curriculum objectives are more complex
  - Resources are more extensive
  - Performance expectations are higher and more rigorous



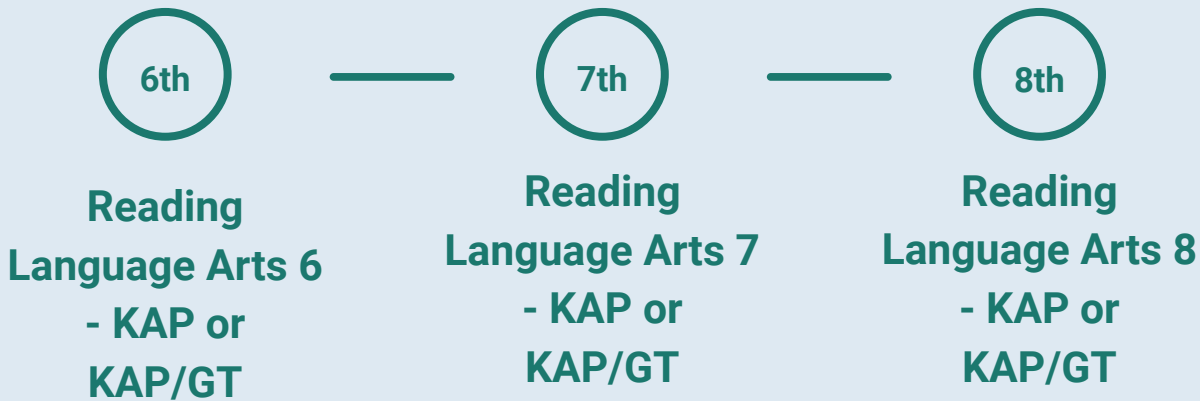
**KAP Course  
Pathways  
by Subject**



# Reading Language Arts



# Course Sequence



KAP/GT is a single block class in 7th grade

\*Note: Junior High courses do not count on GPA (unless otherwise noted)



# Academic VS KAP/AP



Academic	KAP/AP
Structured Writing/emphasis on comprehension and analysis	Emphasis on Depth of understanding/complex analysis/research process
Evidence-based writing focus	Timed Writings with evidence-based conclusions
Young Adult Literature	Authors of Merit



# ELA & SS Skill Development

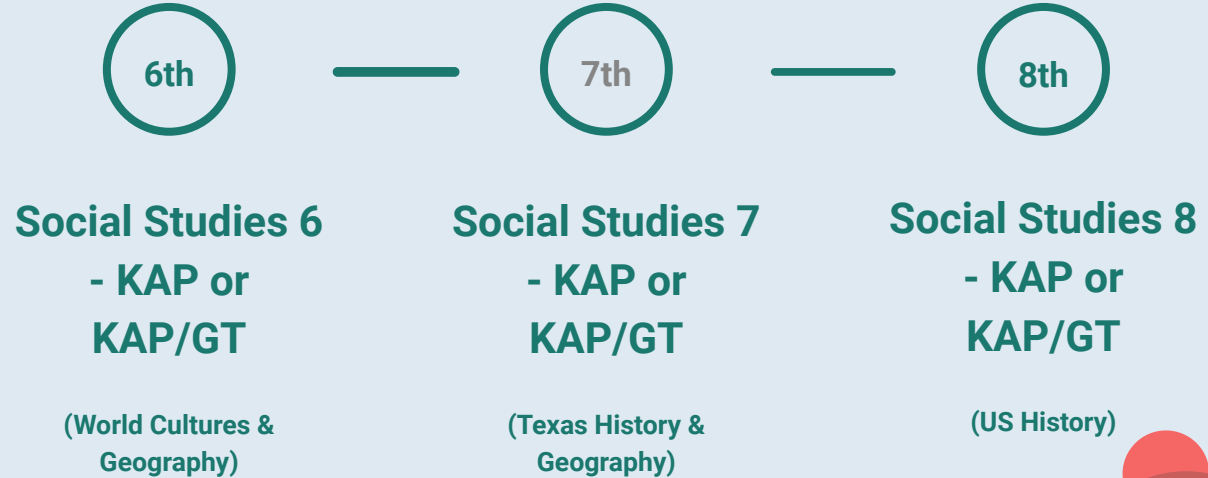
- Primary and secondary document analysis
- Outside reading in addition to textbook
- Accountability for independent reading
- Thesis and Essay Writing based on evidence from assigned readings
- Note-making
- The research process



# Social Studies



# Course Sequence

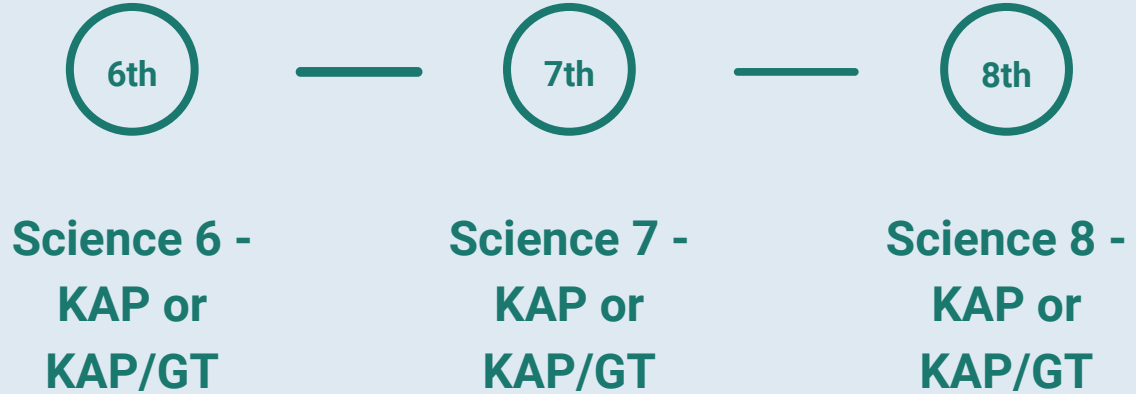


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# The Sciences

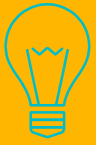


# Course Sequence



\*Note: Junior High courses do not count towards GPA (unless otherwise noted)

# Mathematics



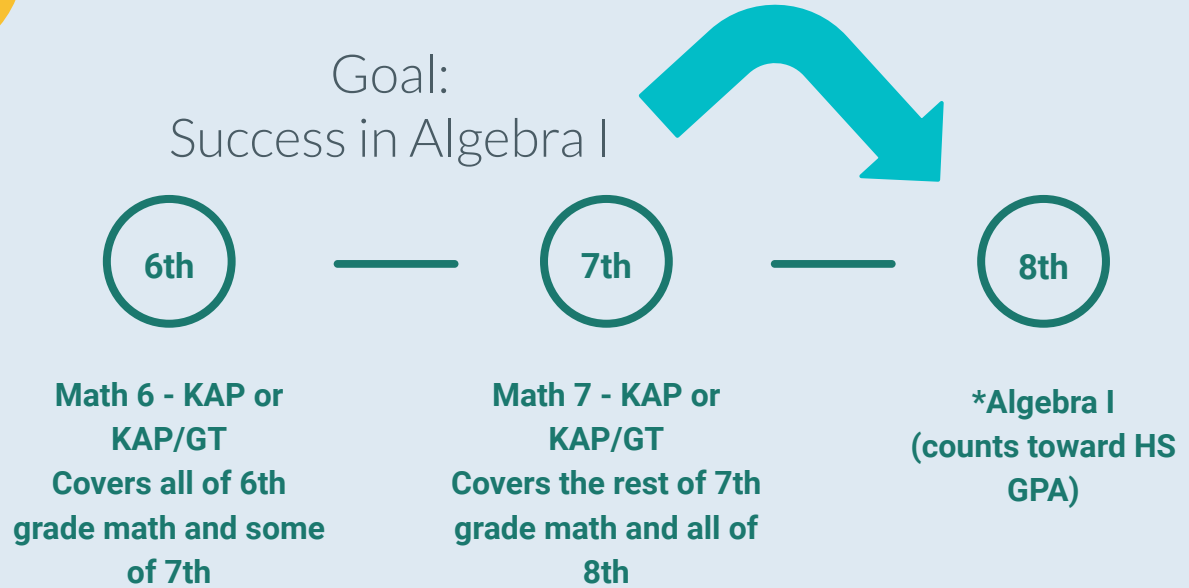


- **Criteria for entering 6th Grade KAP Math**
  - Meet any one of the following criteria
    - Student opts for advanced mathematics
    - Student performs at a level included in the top two quintiles on district data on 5th grade STAAR
    - Student performs at “Masters” level on 5th grade STAAR
    - [SB 2124](#) requires that the top 40% of 5th grade math STAAR students are placed in Adv Math in 6th grade.
    - Opt-out option is available - see campus counselor





# Course Sequence



\*Note: Junior High courses do not count on GPA (unless otherwise noted)  
Additional acceleration is available through Credit By Exam - see campus counselor

# KAP Math Pathway

Questions regarding Credit By Exam (CBE) should be directed to the Accountability and Assessment Department.

Visit this website for details and deadlines

[http://www.katyisd.org/dept/assessment/Pages/Credit-by-Examination-\(CBE\).aspx](http://www.katyisd.org/dept/assessment/Pages/Credit-by-Examination-(CBE).aspx)



# Making Course Decisions





## Advanced Academics in Katy ISD

- Katy ISD recognizes the value of student participation in advanced academic coursework and encourages students to enroll in advanced coursework in 6th grade.
- Students are encouraged to access the most rigorous curriculum in which they can be successful, generally defined as earning a C or better semester average.

\*\*\* Junior High - a safe place to learn productive struggle\*\*\*



# Katy ISD Advanced Academics

- KAP and AP courses are designed to challenge students **beyond** grade-level academic courses and prepare them for success in future advanced level coursework.
- Student performance in previous STAAR test should be considered. A Masters level indicates the student's ability to perform well in above grade level coursework.
- Students may require additional encouragement and support to be successful in these courses.

# Access to Advanced Academics



## When making a decision about KAP, consider:

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1. History of success in the subject?
  - a. STAAR-no remediation, meets or masters level
  - b. Class grades-seems to easily grasp concepts
2. Work Ethic
  - a. Student attitudes - generally likes to learn
  - b. Study habits - will study when needed
3. Personal Interests and Strengths - loves reading, solving problems, historical stories, or experimenting with ideas or science





# Demonstrating Persistence

To encourage students to remain in an advanced course, prior to exiting a course, students must complete a series of steps...



# Exiting Advanced Academic Courses

- Students experiencing success (C or better SEMESTER average) should remain in the course for the semester.
- Students petitioning to exit a KAP or AP course must: conference with the teacher, complete all course assignments, and/or attend recommended tutorials.
- Granting the petition is based on input from the teacher, student, performance in the course, availability of space in other courses, and the timing of the request.



- You can choose as few or as many KAP courses as you feel are appropriate for your child.
- Students successful in 5th grade mathematics should be in KAP math in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

“Some As are not as good  
as some Bs.”

What can students learn from productive struggle?



# Points to Remember

# FAQs



## Why try KAP in Junior high?

- Students who enroll in KAP in junior high benefit from early preparation and academic rigor to develop the academic skills to more easily transition to high school AP coursework and beyond.
- Grades earned in junior high KAP courses do not count toward the high school GPA (high school courses taken in junior high *do* count toward high school GPA, ex. Algebra I)



# FAQs



## Do KAP courses have more homework than academic courses?

Usually, yes. But...parents and students respond that the homework amount is generally appropriate

## Are students enrolled in KAP courses able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Many athletes, cheerleaders, music students, etc. take KAP and AP courses.



# FAQs



## Can a student who does not enroll in KAP course in 6th grade begin KAP in 7th?

Generally, yes. Math, however, requires special consideration. Students who are strong in math should begin KAP Math in 6th grade. However, we encourage all students to enroll in KAP 6th grade courses when possible.

## Can my child test out of a JH course to accelerate to the next level?

There is a process in place known as Credit By Exam (CBE). Contact your campus counselor for more information.

[http://www.katyisd.org/dept/assessment/Pages/Credit-by-Examination-\(CBE\).aspx](http://www.katyisd.org/dept/assessment/Pages/Credit-by-Examination-(CBE).aspx)





# KAP and Gifted Learners

- Students identified as Gifted are served within the KAP program in classes designated as KAP/GT (depending upon the campus, not all secondary campuses offer GT-only classes).
- Only students formally identified should enroll in courses designated KAP/GT. Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who are identified for the secondary GT program should receive notifications in early January.



## Most GT secondary students are clustered in blended KAP classes. What is the advantage of GT identification in that situation?



- GT identification is designed to address the particular educational needs of the gifted learner.
  - The teacher will have 30 hours of GT training
  - The teacher is aware of the GT identification and can address unique needs of gifted learners in that class.
  - GT students are part of a learning community that can help meet their social/emotional and intellectual needs.
  - A cluster of GT students in a class creates a unique dynamic in the classroom that is evidenced by the dialogue and the depth of the conversation in the class.
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## Is it advisable to take all KAP/GT classes?



- Yes. Students are encouraged to take as many KAP/GT classes as they feel are appropriate.

## What if my student is not identified in all areas?

- Students may take KAP/GT for areas of identification, and screen for additional areas if interested.
  - KAP courses are open to all students. GT students are encouraged to enroll in KAP courses
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**My child is approved for a GT course for next year, but we decide not to enroll in that course that grade. Can my child enroll in that GT course in the next grade?**

- No. Your child will have to be screened for that content area during the spring screening window in the next school year for service in the following school year.
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## What if my child is not successful in the program?

After attending tutorials and discussions with teachers, parents and the GT Facilitator, exit policies can be considered. Parents must be notified if a student is wishing to exit a GT course.

## Can my child leave the program?

Yes; students can formally exit the program or be granted a temporary furlough from the program.

## What is a furlough?


A temporary exit from a GT course for specific reasons detailed in KISD board policy. Furloughs are limited to a specific timeframe.







## What if we move to a different school in Katy ISD or my child is affected by changes in attendance zones?

- Students identified for the KISD GT Program at one campus will join the GT Program at their new campus.
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# For additional information...

- Attend Course Selection Nights as scheduled by the junior high/high school campuses
  - Consult the [Course Catalog](#) (available on Schoolinks)
  - Contact your campus counselor
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# Thank You!

This presentation will be posted on the Advanced Academics website.

