

ENGLISH – 9TH GRADE OPTIONS

What is the difference between KAP English and Academic English?

Primarily, pace and independence. Academic English covers the same material as KAP English, but the pace is remarkably more forgiving. Additionally, there is significantly more guided reading and practice during an Academic class, so less is expected of students at home. The level of analytical reading and writing required in KAP is more significant than academic because the course is scaffolded to include skills to prepare students for AP English Language and AP English Literature.

How challenging is KAP English?

Generally, students find KAP English to be one of their more challenging courses. The level of independent reading and high standards for writing are significantly different than what they experience in Junior High. KAP English students are expected to participate in graded structured discussions. KAP English has more homework assignments in general than junior high, including, but not limited to, independent reading assignments.

Should my child take KAP English if they did not in Junior High?

It is always an option to move up in difficulty, but students should expect to be a lot more challenged in KAP English. It starts out quickly, and there is not a lot of time for students to adjust to the pace before they begin testing and quizzing. Generally, if a student knows that they will not read outside of class, they should not take KAP English.

KAP / AP English- How is it different from junior high?

Works of Literary Merit

To strengthen our students' understanding of text analysis, our classes focus on evaluating significant pieces of critically acclaimed literature with regard to their themes and application to the social issues contemporary to their contexts. These texts help students to develop stronger close reading skills, critical thinking skills, and a stronger vocabulary.

Whole Class Discussion

Our works of literature typically drive many of our class discussions centered on the issues upon which those novels focus. They warrant in-depth discussion and analysis of social issues or moral dilemmas such as social class, racial prejudice, corruption of power, consequences, and decision-making. Students are expected to actively contribute to the discussion and will be assessed on their contributions to class discussions.

Essay Writing

One of the largest academic leaps students make in our course is writing essays in a timed setting. Students spend the most time in tutorials practicing and honing their writing skills as this is often the skill they have developed least to this point in their educational career. Freshman KAP students often find essay writing the most challenging aspect of their transition from junior high because the focus moves from not only answering the question but the quality and preciseness of their prose. After all, writing is a craft, and in order to excel at this craft, students must frequently revise and self-reflect on their individual writing.

MATH – 9TH GRADE OPTIONS

ALGEBRA I	ACADEMIC GEOMETRY	KAP GEOMETRY
Students develop the concept of functions. Students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and make connections between the functions, their related transformations, equations, and their solutions in both mathematical and real-world situations.	Students strengthen their mathematical reasoning skills in geometric context. Students will study properties and relationships of geometric figures with a focus on size, shape, location, direction, and the orientation of these figures.	Students explore the same concepts as academic Geometry; however, the topics are more thoroughly investigated. The level of instruction/curriculum focuses on preparing students for advanced placement coursework.
Students will develop needed skills and build a solid foundation for future math courses.	Students will apply skills learned in Algebra I to shapes and figures.	Calculus AP is the end goal for these students. The course is vertically aligned to ensure students arrive in Algebra 2 KAP and beyond with the skills they need to be successful.
The majority of learning is done in the classroom, and homework acts as a reinforcement.	The majority of learning is done in the classroom, and homework acts as a reinforcement.	Some independent learning is required. Homework reinforces learning but will also require students to extend their thinking. Students are expected to think critically and make connections between various topics.
Assessments require understanding of key concepts practiced in class.	Assessments require understanding of key concepts practiced in class.	Assessments require understanding of key concepts practiced in class. However, they also test students at a conceptual level and require deep comprehension of the topics. Students will need to expand their thinking beyond what is explicitly discussed in class and make further connections.

The “profile” of a successful KAP Geometry student is one that can...

- Study regularly
- Manage their time wisely
- Asks questions (from teacher AND peers)
- Justify their work and answers
- Attend tutorials
- Access prior knowledge, a solid foundation in Algebra I is critical
- Complete homework in a timely manner

SCIENCE– 9TH GRADE OPTIONS

KAP Biology is a rigorous and academically challenging environment that targets the needs of advanced students. The goal is to cultivate scientifically literate citizens who are willing to think critically, problem solve, and ask questions.

ACADEMIC BIOLOGY	KAP BIOLOGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labs and activities reinforce learning and allow students to apply their knowledge to real-world applications.• Note taking assistance and guidance is provided and notes are predominantly taken in class.• Student-centered learning environment with teacher guidance.• Assessments are a combination of knowledge retention and some application of skills. Quizzes and tests and predominantly multiple choice, drag and drop, hotspots, or fill in the blank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inquiry based learning model that promotes discovery and critical thinking skills.• Notes are unguided and predominately taken at home, allowing for content rich discussions and activities to take place during class.• Student-centered learning environment with frequent checks for understanding.• Assessments are predominantly application based including free response questions.

The “profile” of a successful KAP Biology student is one that can...

Collaborate with peers, explain their thinking to others, ask questions, communicate both verbally and in written format, make mistakes and learn from them, attend tutorials, manage their time, work hard to complete assignments, problem-solve, justify their work, utilize canvas and other resources, and self-advocate.

SOCIAL STUDIES– 9TH GRADE OPTIONS

	ACADEMIC WORLD GEOGRAPHY	KAP WORLD GEOGRAPHY	AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
Content	Regionally based- students will cover the physical and human geography of all the major regions of the world	Regionally based- students will cover the physical and human geography of all the major regions of the world with a focus on depth of analysis	Thematically based with an emphasis on Human Geography
Structure	The majority of learning is done in the classroom, and homework acts as a reinforcement	Selections of readings are completed at home and learning is reinforced in the classroom.	Selections of college-level readings are completed at home and learning is reinforced in the classroom.
Homework	Students' homework will consist of work in the classroom that was not completed	Students' homework will consist of independent reading in which they have a few days to complete and work that's not complete in class	Students' homework will consist of independent reading, which they have a few days to complete and work that's not completed in class
Skills	Student-centered learning with a focus on skills needed for the next level	Student-centered learning with a focus on skills needed for AP classes	Support of skills needed for college success
Writing	Students will have writing prompts in class	Students will have advanced writing prompts in class	Students will prepare for AP exam writing
Assessments		Students will work under timed conditions for assessments	Students will work under timed conditions for assessments
College Credit			Earn College Credit by scoring 3 or higher

Who should consider KAP World Geography?

- Students who excelled in history classes and wish to develop skills before attempting an AP course
- Students who are self-motivated
- Students who can manage time effectively
- Students who enjoy learning about world cultures, current events, & world news
- Students who are interested in improving analytical & writing skills

Who should consider AP Human Geography?

- GT Students who wish to keep their GT distinction in Social Studies
- Students who wish to earn college credit
- KAP students who excelled in history classes
- Students who are highly self-motivated & can manage time effectively
- Students who want to build a strong AP foundation
- Students who are interested in current events, world news, and the “why of where”