Tips for Success in KAP and KAP/GT Classes

1. Why KAP
2. KAP Contract
3. Organize
4. Prioritize
5. Resources

Katy ISD GT/Advanced Academics Dept.
KAP is an Advanced Curriculum

- **Elementary Curriculum (1 option)**
  - One-size-fits-all
  - Everyone learning the same objectives

- **Junior High Curriculum (2 options)**
  - Academic Classes (typical 6th grader)
  - KAP (Katy Advanced Placement) Classes
    - Dives deeper into content
    - Critical thinking skills
    - Sophisticated class discussions
    - More objectives (Math)
      - 6th grade KAP Math (6th & 7th grade objectives)
      - 7th grade KAP Math (7th & 8th grade objectives)
      - 8th grade—Algebra I (HS Credit)
KAP is **Low Risk** in Junior High

- **Why KAP**
  - Perfect time to try a more rigorous curriculum
    - What subject(s) are they interested in?
    - What subject(s) do they excel at?
  - Find the right pacing
    - All KAP Courses **OR**
    - Combination of KAP and Academic courses
    - Go BIG! Take a chance!
  - **No GPA!!!**
    - High School Credit Courses only (Algebra I, Geometry, Art, Spanish)
    - Grade Point Average (used for college admissions)
    - In High School, KAP, KAP/GT, AP, and AP/GT classes are all weighted on a 5.0 scale (A= 5 points). Academic classes are weighted on a 4.0 scale.
KAP Classes—Preparatory for HS

- Junior High KAP is the time to build muscles needed for success in High School AP courses:
  - Organization
  - Productive study habits
  - Time Management
  - Goal setting & planning
  - List making
  - Research & presentation skills
  - Note taking
High School and College

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses
  - Typically Junior and Senior Years
  - AP Exam can give you college credit
  - Save $$$ on college tuition!
- Start NOW to prepare for success in High School and College
Why KAP & Campus Commitment

- Campus support (interventions) for KAP students
  - Build Stamina
  - Help with Organization and assignment completion
  - Increase content knowledge
  - Bridge to Advanced Academic Curriculum

AP/KAP Course Commitment

Katy ISD recognizes the value of student participation in advanced academic coursework and encourages students to graduate from high school with at least one advanced academic course credit such as Advanced Placement. Participation in advanced academic courses is a foundation of college readiness. Students who participate are more likely to complete a bachelor’s degree in college and typically have higher college GPAs (Hargrove, Godin and Dodd, 2007; Dodd and Keng, 2008). The intent of this commitment is to maximize each student’s potential for success in AP and KAP courses.

Choosing Advanced Academics

KAP and AP courses are designed to challenge students beyond grade-level academic courses and prepare them for success in future advanced coursework. Students may require additional encouragement and support from both family and campus to be successful in advanced academics.

Campus Commitment

The campus commits to advanced academics by communicating the value of advanced coursework, recruiting students with potential for success, encouraging student commitment, and supporting advanced academic instruction. In the event that a student wishes to drop or appears to be struggling in AP or KAP a conference should be held with the student to determine intervention necessary and next steps.
**Student Commitment**

- Take initiative
  - Check grades regularly
  - Talk to teacher if there are questions
- Persevere!
  - Ask for help
  - Attend tutorials
  - Create a study group

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The student commits to advanced academics by recognizing the long-term benefits of participation and seeking assistance when needed. As a student enrolled in an AP or KAP course:

- I understand that advanced academic courses may seem challenging at first and initial grades may not reflect later in the course.
- **In the event that I encounter difficulties with the course content, I will conference with my teacher about my progress and attend recommended tutorials.**
- I understand that course changes will be contingent on space availability, extenuating circumstances, the teacher’s appraisal of my potential for success in the course, and the timing of the request.
- I understand that successful completion of an AP exam can yield college credit.
- I understand that participation in advanced coursework prepares me well for college, increases my chances of finishing a college degree in four years, and earning a higher college GPA.
Teacher Commitment

- Teachers have 150+ students in their classes
  - Give them the benefit of the doubt
  - Reach out in a polite way to ask for clarification
  - Try and resolve with teacher before escalating
  - Allow 24-48 hours for a response
Parent Commitment

- Encourage child to attend tutorials
- Support organizational system
- Check in with child weekly
  - Help prioritize upcoming assignments
  - Support study skills
- Teach and Model for your child!

The parent commits to advanced academics by supporting student learning in the advanced academic course; by supporting teacher efforts to provide rigorous, quality instruction; and by valuing the learning that occurs in the advanced academic course. As a parent of a student enrolled in an AP or KAP course:

- I will encourage my child to be prepared for class each day.
- I understand that advanced academics courses may seem challenging at first and initial grades may reflect later in the course.
- If my child encounters difficulties with the course content, I will expect my child to conference with the teacher and attend recommended tutorials.
- Prior to initiating a petition for my child to exit the course, I will contact the teacher for input.
- I understand that schedule changes will be contingent on space availability, extenuating circumstances, the teacher’s appraisal of my potential for success in the course, and the timing of the request.
LESSON 1 | Organization

1. Options
2. Student’s choice
3. Evaluate/reflect
   a. Keep
   b. Change
4. Clean out backpack
   a. Weekly (if needed) OR
   b. Every progress report/report card (3 weeks)
5. Folders at home
   a. File tests and quizzes
   b. Study to cumulative test or finals
Organize

3-ring Binders

**Pros:**
- See papers
- Use dividers for classes
- Sturdy
- Different sizes (1", 2", etc)

**Cons:**
- Hole punch required
- Papers tear
- Bulky
- Price
Pocket Folders

**Pros:**
- Plastic folders are sturdy
- Color coordinate classes
- Thin/not bulky
- Price
- Themed

**Cons:**
- Paper folders fall apart (use plastic ones)
- Prongs are hard to use
- Papers can fall out
- Only 2 pockets
Organize

Accordion Folder/Expandable

Pros:
Zipper—nothing falls out
Sections for each period + extra
Quickly stow papers

Cons:
Pull papers out to see them
Might put in wrong slot
Price
1 Homework Folder

**Pros:**
ALL HW in 1 place
Price

**Cons:**
Papers can fall out
Easy to overlook in backpack
Organize

Spiral Notebooks

**Pros:**
Can color coordinate with folders
Price
Themed

**Cons:**
Papers tear out
Annoying paper edge
Nowhere to store loose papers
Organize

Mix and Match systems!

Science Binder

ELA, Math, Social Studies, Band

Homework Folder

Supply Bag
Organize

Evaluate and Revise!

- Check in with child
  - What is working?
  - What needs to be modified?
- 1st Six weeks of school–check in/clean out backpack weekly
- After that, clean out backpack
  - Every 3 weeks (at Progress Report and Report)
  - Purge papers that you don’t need
  - File tests/quizzes in folder at home
  - Only keep current work in backpack
  - Restock supplies
Prioritize

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Grades

Junior High and High School: 6 week grading periods

- UIL eligibility
- Every 3 weeks
  - Progress Report OR
  - Report Card
- A LOT of graded work
- Likely to have a major or minor grade (or both) every week (in each academic subject)
- Check HAC regularly! (you and your child)
# Grades—3 types

**Major**—tests, big projects, writing (essays)

**Minor**—quizzes, projects, science labs, writing projects, DLA

**Other**—homework, classwork, worksheets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Major (%)</th>
<th>Minor (%)</th>
<th>Other (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Prioritize

### Grades: Money Example

#### Major (2+)
- Test 1 – $225 max
- Test 2 – $225 max
- **TOTAL = $450 max**

#### Minor (4+)
- Quiz 1 – $100 max
- Quiz 2 – $100 max
- Quiz 3 – $100 max
- Quiz 4 – $100 max
- **TOTAL = $400 max**

#### Other (6+)
- Other 1 – $25 max
- Other 2 – $25 max
- Other 3 – $25 max
- Other 4 – $25 max
- Other 5 – $25 max
- Other 6 – $25 max
- **TOTAL = $150 max**

A = $900 or above
B = $800-$900
C = $700-$800
HAC Example 1

Major Grades: ➡

Minor Grades: ➡

Other Grades: ➡

You will see due date, assignment name, category, score, total points, and classwork average (top right corner).
HAC Example 2

- Check the Total Points value
  - Usually 100
  - Occasionally a different value
- **M** = missing work. Counted as 0. Can still be turned in (late).
How to help your child

- Check Canvas Often (at least weekly)
  - Determine if it’s Major, Minor, Other
  - Help them plan out Major/Minor assignment
    - Break task into smaller parts
    - Plan which days to accomplish each part
  - Writing assignments need to be chunked
    - Brainstorm topic ideas
    - Outline paragraph by paragraph
  - Map out daily tasks
    - Make a list
    - **Must do** (3 or 4) vs what can wait (add to calendar)
    - Set timed expectations for each task
- Frequent Check ins
  - Evaluate
  - Revise!
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Resources

**Planner/Calendar**

- Printed Calendar/Planner
  - Daily assignments
  - Fun design
- Canvas Calendar
  - Many teachers use
  - Students can add their own items
  - See all classes in one place
  - Color-code classes
- Cell Phone Calendar (Google, etc)
  - Whatever they choose, YOU need to MODEL how to use it
  - Sit down with them to map assignments out
  - Follow up—check in to see how it’s working
  - Modify/Change if it’s not effective
List Making

- Post it notes
- List making Templates (online)
- List making writing pads
- Apps
  - Tasks (Google)
  - TickTick (calendar with lists)
  - Keep (Google)
- Planners
Homework Tips

- Create designated study space
  - Well lit
  - Comfortable
  - Big enough space to spread out materials
  - Supplies (pencils, paper, post-it notes, etc)
  - Teach child to keep it organized and free of clutter
  - Dry erase calendar and/or bulletin Board
- Turn off the tv and avoid distractions (pets, siblings, radio, etc)
- Set Specific rules about cell phones during study hours
- Consistency!
  - Allow 30 min to decompress after school
  - Schedule dinner at same time nightly
  - Set a regular time for HW (before or after dinner, depending on your schedule)
How to Study

- **Must be TAUGHT!**
- Read a chapter (or worksheet, packet, lab) and take notes
  - Jot down key words/phrases
  - Highlight important information (names, dates, key words, key concepts, etc)
  - [Cornell Notes](#)
- Skim material and then write a summary
- Study tables and charts
- Make your own flashcards
  - By Hand
  - [Quizlet](#)
Study for Tests/Quizzes

- Pull out ALL notes/worksheets/labs/classwork/etc on the topic
- Look at test review
  - Ex: Science Unit 5: Energy Transformations
    - Energy can be neither created nor destroyed, but can change forms.
    - Kinetic energy, potential energy, thermal energy, Law of Conservation of Energy
  - Let's start with Kinetic Energy. Pull out every paper that mentions kinetic energy
  - Read aloud every sentence on kinetic energy
  - Compare—see how sources sometimes give different or additional information
  - Read all of it and make sure you understand know all the points from different sources
  - Repeat with the next concept until all concepts on review have been covered
Goal Setting/Task List Practice

- **GOAL:** Clean your room
  - Put clean clothes away 7 min
    - Hang up in closet
    - Put away in dresser
  - Put dirty clothes in hamper 3 min
  - Straighten books/toys 5 min
  - Throw trash away 1 min
  - Return items that shouldn’t be in bedroom 6 min
    - Dirty dishes to the kitchen
    - Items returned to siblings
  - Make Bed 3 min
  - Vacuum 5 min

- Set timed expectations
  - Total: 30 min
  - Break into two 15-min sessions
  - Evaluate/reflect—adjustments for next time
Resources

- GT/Advanced Academics Webpage
- Edmentum Blog
  - Study Skills Tips
  - HW and Study Habits
- School Counselors
- Khan Academy (content knowledge)
- YouTube
  - Crash Course
  - Mr Parr (Science)
- Brain Pop (My Katy Cloud)
- Pinterest
  - Study area set-up
  - Planner/calendar templates
  - Study skills/tips
Resources

QR for Parent Presentation:

QR for Parent Feedback Survey: