

AAP at Skyview Middle School

Welcome to our program!

This presentation is designed to give you an overview of our AAP program in English, Social Studies, Math, and Science.

AAP Philosophy and Practice

- Emphasis on inferential thinking and problem-solving.
- Growth mindset is encouraged.
- Depth and breadth in reading and research is integrated into multiple content areas.
- Students take ownership of their own learning and self-advocate.
- Responsibility, organization and motivation are key to being successful.
- Students are challenged to work outside of their comfort zone.

AAP vs. High Cap

What is the difference between AAP and High Cap?

The two terms have become integrated to represent the same thing. At Skyview you may hear the two used interchangeably.

We offer a full AAP program at each grade level, and in each program subject area.

SMS AAP Classes

At Skyview we have the following AAP courses in 6th, 7th and 8th grades:

- AAP English Language Arts
- AAP Social Studies
- AAP Science
- NSD Math pathways for the AAP student

AAP Registration

Don't worry about selecting the appropriate AAP courses for registration.

If your student has qualified for AAP services in the Northshore School District, and you have accepted services, we will automatically place the student into the program courses they qualify for.

AAP Registration

- Students who qualify in Reading will be placed into AAP English and AAP Social Studies.
- Students who qualify in Math will be placed into AAP Science. If they are in 6th grade they will also be placed in Challenge Math 7. The exception to this is a 6th grade student who passes the Algebra Readiness Assessment. These 6th grade students are placed into Algebra with the consent of families. (A caution for students who do such a “jump” into Algebra in 6th grade - There is a greater possibility that students are missing key skills that are necessary for success and may struggle with the course. Please review our Math slide at the end of this presentation.)

Challenges and Benefits to our AAP Program

Students experience a variety of challenges and benefits when they participate in AAP. This may vary for each student based on their personal abilities, mindset and experience.

The following two slides cover just a few of these.

Challenges of being in the AAP program

- Due to the rigor, students might not have straight A's.
- For 6th grade students, the transition to middle school AAP may require a stretch.
- Students may experience stress as they balance program demands.
- Friends may be in different classes.
- If you miss something, it may be difficult to catch up.
- Classes move at a faster pace.
- There are rigorous problem-based projects and assignments.
- Expectations of student performance are high.

Benefits of being in the AAP program

- Organizational skills and time-management are integrated into the learning.
- Students experience both a friendly, competitive environment and effective elements of interdependent collaboration.
- Opportunities to dive deeper into concepts and curriculum.
- Experienced and trained educators who understand how to teach students in an AAP program.

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AAP Science

- Students work independently and collaboratively within lab groups with opportunities to practice a variety of skills.
- Weekly labs provide opportunities for:
 - Inquiry
 - Exploration
 - Deeper engagement
- Higher-level math and cognitive skills are integrated into learning experiences.
 - Answering the 'why' & 'how' questions versus simply the 'what' questions
- Consistent attendance allows students to engage in discourse with others:
 - Hearing multiple perspectives on a topic
 - Learning multiple strategies in problem-solving from peers
- Homework occurs when additional time is needed to complete research and tasks.
- Faster pace allows time for more exploration of concepts.

AAP English Language Arts

- Springboard 6th Grade Curriculum-College Board (AP classes and SAT tests)
 - Focus on Common Core State Standards.
 - Emphasizes text complexity, well-crafted written responses, and meaningful learning tasks.
 - ELA and SS/History overlap-ELA >>>-debate, presentation, research, essays
- Advance learning opportunities occur throughout the year; past examples include Literature circles, Socratic Seminars, group and individual presentations, readers' theater, poetry.
- Homework :
 - Vocabulary, word work, follow up w/classroom assignments, novel-study work
 - Reading every day at home

AAP Social Studies

- ❖ 6th Grade Curriculum: History Alive! Ancient Civilizations & Medieval World and Beyond
 - ❖ Ancient Civilizations:
 - Mesopotamia
 - Egypt
 - Greece and/or Rome
 - India and/or China
 - ❖ Medieval World and Beyond:
 - Europe during Medieval Times
 - Japan during Medieval Times
 - World Religion
 - Cultures and Kingdoms of West Africa
- ❖ Major focus on reading and writing.
- ❖ Presentations/Debates/Seminars occur often and regularly.
- ❖ Independent and collaborative learning opportunities.
- ❖ Emphasis on diving deeper into the curriculum and further developing their analytical skills.

AAP Math Information

Most incoming AAP 6th graders are placed in Challenge 7 Math.
Students who passed the Algebra Readiness Test are placed in Algebra.

Challenge 7 Math: This course is a compression of 7th and 8th grade content that prepares students for Algebra in 7th grade.

Algebra: Algebra is a high school course that allows students to earn high school credit. This course is rigorous and requires a strong pre-Algebra foundation for success. Many 6th grade students who pass the Algebra Readiness Test choose to opt out of Algebra and take Challenge 7 Math instead. To be successful in Algebra, students should have mastered the following skills:

- Integer Operations
- Solving Equations using Inverse Operations
- Solving and Graphing Inequalities
- Graphing Points on a Coordinate Plane
- Direct Variation

Note: Students who take Algebra as 6th graders will be slated to take Pre-Calculus (a college level class) as freshman. However, to earn college credit for this course, students must be in 10th grade.

Contact for Additional Information

NSD Hi-Cap Program webpage <https://www.nsd.org/highcap>

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