

# **Goldenview Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP Program**

## **FAQs**

### **1. What is the Pre-AP Program at Goldenview?**

In 2019-20, Goldenview Middle School will be offering Pre-AP Language Arts and Social Studies classes for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The goal of the Pre-AP Program is to prepare students for success in high school Honors and AP classes by teaching students specific Pre-AP strategies and helping them gain confidence with rigorous coursework while they are in middle school.

### **2. How is 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP Grade Language Arts different from Gifted Language Arts or standard Language Arts?**

In 8th Grade Pre-AP Language Arts, students will learn the same curriculum as the standard Language Arts class with the addition of with Pre-AP strategies. Pre-AP Language Arts will introduce and develop specific reading, analysis, writing, and speaking strategies that are often used high school Honors and AP level courses. Furthermore, Pre-AP Language Arts is designed for students who see themselves as strong students, but who may not have qualified for the gifted program. In comparison, 8th Grade Gifted Language Arts teaches curriculum that is similar in topic to Pre-AP Language Arts, but without the specific Pre-AP skills.

### **3. How is 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP Social Studies different from standard 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies?**

In 8th Grade Pre-AP Social Studies, students will learn the same content as students in 8th Grade Social Studies classes with the addition of Pre-AP strategies. These strategies are designed to help students read, analyze and write about complex primary source documents. They will also learn strategies to advance their non-fiction writing and speaking skills.

### **4. Will my student have a lot more homework if they are in the Pre-AP Program?**

Pre-AP classes are not designed to overwhelm students with homework. The work will be more challenging in terms of the rigor and depth of thought required, but students will not necessarily have a lot “more” work, in terms of quantity, than a student in a standard 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts or Social Studies class.

### **5. What are the qualities of a student who would do well in the Pre-AP Program at GVMS?**

Students who have a strong work ethic tend to do well in Pre-AP classes. The key component for success in a Pre-AP class is the willingness of a student to do rigorous mental work and complete and turn in all assignments.

**6. How do I know if my student would be a good fit for the Pre-AP Program at GVMS?**

The Pre-AP Program at GVMS may be the right fit for your student if they have a habit of completing all of their assignments, are interested in challenging themselves in middle school and want to learn specific strategies that will help them succeed in rigorous high school Language Arts and Social Studies classes.

**7. How are students selected for the Pre-AP Program at GVMS?**

Students who would be selected for this program need to have an 80% or higher on the MAP guideline, or Language Arts teacher recommendation, and a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

**8. If my student is recommended for the Pre-AP Program, and I would rather they not participate, what should I do?**

Students will self-select Pre-AP interest on their electronic course request form for 8th grade. These students will then be invited to a Pre-AP lunch meeting where they will be given more information. A parent permission slip must be completed in order to be enrolled in Pre-AP classes.

**9. Can my student take only ONE Pre-AP class at GVMS instead of both 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP Language Arts and Social Studies?**

At GVMS, students must enroll in both 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP Language Arts and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-AP Social Studies to participate in the Pre-AP Program. The two courses are integrated with cross-curricular assignments and projects throughout the year. In addition, students may be introduced to a particular Pre-AP strategy in one class, and then practice it in the other class. Because of this cross-curricular approach to teaching Pre-AP Language Arts and Social Studies, students do need to be enrolled in both courses to receive the full benefit of the program.

**10. Will the Pre-AP classes guarantee placement of my student in AP classes in high school?**

The GVMS program is designed to prepare students for Honors and AP classes, but it will not guarantee placement in AP classes in high school.