

SUCCESS STORY

American International School of Jeddah (AISJ)

Getting Started with Pre-AP

MAKING THE DECISION

Every year, the American International School of Jeddah offers approximately 25 AP[®] courses to their scholars, and everyone who enrolls in an AP course sits for the AP Exam.

“We firmly believe that everyone can pass those exams, and we’re going to do whatever it takes to help them to pass.”

—Rick Vanden Boom, Principal

Leaders at the school made a commitment to support scholars and turned to research. After attending a College Board webinar, the team decided that Pre-AP[®] would provide equitable access to rigorous coursework that would prepare all scholars for AP courses and beyond. Their decision: replace exclusive honors classes with Pre-AP courses for *all* scholars.

EXPLAINING PRE-AP TO SCHOLARS AND PARENTS

In early spring, the school offered five informational webinars for parents and scholars that gave an overview of Pre-AP, offered a look at each course, and discussed shared principles. Empowered with this information and having shifted their mindsets regarding what scholars can do, parents were on board, and they shared their enthusiasm with their scholars.

The principal then met with each teacher individually to gauge interest in teaching these courses, to answer questions, and to offer support.

“They already had all of their questions answered and had plenty of process time, so when they made the decision, they were ready to go.” —Rick Vanden Boom, Principal

Implementing Pre-AP

HIGH EXPECTATIONS ARE KEY

Pursuant to its growth mindset and focus on asset-based language, the school:

- Made a systemic change in language, now calling students “scholars” to align to the Pre-AP belief that all students can achieve.
- Outlined a specific goal: every scholar would take at least one AP course by the time they graduate.

“Bringing in Pre-AP says to our scholars, ‘We’re doing this because we believe in you.’” —Kelsey Bull, Assistant Principal



JEDDAH,
SAUDI
ARABIA

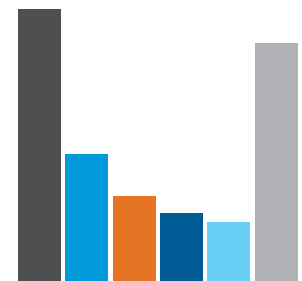
SCHOOL STATS

292

High school scholars enrolled

100%

Scholars enrolled in Pre-AP, for the Pre-AP courses offered



32% Saudi Arabia
15% United States
10% Lebanon
8% Egypt
7% Canada
28% 47 other nationalities

PRE-AP COURSES IMPLEMENTED

- Algebra 1
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English 1
- English 2
- Geometry with Statistics
- Music
- Visual Arts
- World History and Geography

The Impact of Pre-AP

IMPROVED SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT

- Noticeable shift in scholar behavior and confidence
- Greater scholar collaboration in all courses

CHANGE IMPLEMENTED BY TEACHERS

- Teachers internalized the Pre-AP framework, scaffolding and adapting it to meet academic and cultural needs.
- Pre-AP alleviates the “suitcase curriculum,” an experience familiar to many international schools. Teachers often use the materials they’ve brought with them. With Pre-AP, teachers are able to give scholars a more consistent instructional experience.

“Pre-AP puts its scholars way ahead of those who don’t have this experience. It goes much deeper into content and teaches scholars how to think!” —Grace Tesfae, Pre-AP World History and Geography Teacher

Top Tips / Key Takeaways

- 1 Communicate clearly, and plan ahead.
- 2 Connect with other Pre-AP schools to learn from one another.
- 3 Give teachers access to resources as early as possible.

MEET THE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Teachers

Matthew Bishop
Pre-AP English 1

James Carter
Pre-AP Chemistry

Christopher Cobb
Pre-AP English 2

Dana Dabboussy
Pre-AP Visual Art

Vanessa Kennedy
Pre-AP Music

Hala Marouf
Pre-AP Biology

Peter McDill
Pre-AP World History and
Geography (Modern)

Genevieve Morehouse
Pre-AP Biology

Joel Sanderson
Pre-AP Algebra 1

Jumana Swaid
Pre-AP Geometry with Statistics

Grace Tesfae
Pre-AP World History and
Geography (Ancient)

Administration

Rick Vanden Boom
Principal

Kelsey Bull
Assistant Principal

Olena Jackson
School Counselor

Kerry Mahoney
School Counselor

Learn more about the Pre-AP Program at preap.org.