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203 Ivy Avenue
Deer Park, Texas 77536-2747
832.668.7000
FAX: 281.930.1945
www.dpsid.org

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Arnold Adair
Superintendent

Dear Parents,

Since 1955, the College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) has offered high school students the opportunity to complete college-level courses while still in high school. End-of-course examinations provide students an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge they have acquired, the skills they have developed, and the concepts they comprehend. Participation in the Advanced Placement Program offers students many benefits. More students could reap the benefits of participation in AP courses if they were introduced to the essential academic skills and habits of mind necessary for success in the AP program during junior high school.

With this in mind, Deer Park Independent School District will offer Pre-AP courses in English Language Arts (ELA) at the junior high-level beginning in the 2008-2009 school year. Pre-AP ELA will be offered in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade for gifted and talented students and other enriched students. Enriched classes have been offered in the past. The main difference that parents will see in this program is the inclusion of classic literature and the higher level of literary analysis and analytical thinking that will be introduced.

The purpose of the Pre-AP program is to equip participating middle and high school students with the strategies and tools they need to engage in active, high-level learning, thereby ensuring that the students develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts they need to succeed in college. Pre-AP is based on the following two important premises. The first is the expectation that students can perform at rigorous academic levels. This expectation will be reflected in curriculum and instruction throughout the school so that all students are consistently being challenged to expand their knowledge and skills to the next level.

The second important premise of Pre-AP is the belief that we can prepare students for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and acquisition of knowledge as early as possible. Addressed effectively, the middle and high school years can provide a powerful opportunity to help students acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning.

If you have any questions concerning the Pre-AP programs being offered at Deer Park ISD junior highs, please feel free to contact our Coordinator for Advanced Academics, Lisa Meyer, at 832-668-7112 or lmeyer@dpsid.org. We look forward to an amazing year with our Pre-AP students.

Sincerely,

Shelly Childers, Ed.D.
Coordinator ELA/SS