

### KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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JUDY SEIFERT ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF INSTRUCTION NIKA DAVIS SECONDARY CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

> (PRINCIPAL'S NAME) CAMPUS

Parent/Guardians,

(Your Campus)

Beginning in the 2004-05 school year, KISD will implement a Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) /Advanced Placement (AP) Program that will require the signing of a parent letter of understanding to maintain enrollment in a Pre-AP or AP course at the middle and high school level. The district has set a goal to increase our Advanced Placement scores as well as to assist more students in becoming prepared for the rigorous level of college course work. Attached you will find the Letter of Understanding that outlines the program expectations. This agreement will need to be signed upon entry into the program and will be filed on the home campus once verified by an instructional leader. Please do not hesitate in contacting \_\_\_\_\_\_ (campus contact) with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thank you,

(Principal signature)

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Keller ISD is offering Pre-Advanced and Advanced Placement classes for Middle School and High School students. The purpose of these demanding courses is to prepare students for college work and/or Advanced Placement exams that give the student the opportunity to receive college credit. Pre-AP and AP courses require more effort, attention and skill than regular coursework. The course work in the AP classes will be modeled after college courses and therefore students will be using college level material and will have to spend a considerable amount of time outside the classroom to prepare for the AP Exam(s). Because these courses are taught with college curricular and college level materials, students must be highly motivated, able to prioritize time, task-oriented, proficient readers, and have parental support. In order for the Pre-AP/AP program to be successful, it is important that parent/guardians and students are aware of the commitment involved.

Homework: Students will have homework in most AP classes every day.

Readings: Pre-AP/AP courses will require outside reading and summer reading.

Essays: To prepare for the national exam(s), AP students will be expected to write numerous essays in several classes.

<u>Grading:</u> Because students will be graded as strictly as in college courses, Pre-AP and AP courses will be weighted 10 points for the purposes of Grade Point Averages and class rankings.

<u>Textbooks:</u> AP courses often require the use of college textbooks, and may, therefore, contain more mature subject matter.

Exams: Students will be expected to register and pay to take the AP exam(s) which will be administered in May of each year.

College Credit: Each student must contact his/her college of choice to check for acceptance of AP credit.

Exiting: A student may exit a Pre-AP/AP class during the SAVE process.

Honor Code: All students will be expected to do their own work. Students may be given projects or exams that must be completed outside of class. If a student breaks t his code, it may result in the student being removed from the course.

# **ON TO THE FUTURE**

### **Counseling Newsletter**

Spring, 2004

### Texas Scholars Program Update

Dear Parents and Students,

Texas Scholars is a program that encourages students to follow a more rigorous course load in high school in order to excel. The program began in 1991, and has traditionally indicated that a graduate should pursue the state's Recommended graduation plan to go above and beyond expectations. This was especially important when the state allowed three levels for graduation: Minimum, Recommended and Distinguished.

The Recommended graduation plan now represents the standard requirements for graduation, and the basic criteria for Texas Scholars has remained at the Recommended level. To maintain the spirit behind the Texas Scholars program, Keller ISD has added an additional component to the program. Texas Scholars, which is an independent educational organization and not a state agency, allows school districts to enhance the requirements.

The Class of 2005 will have the option to be granted the Texas Scholar designation by following the Texas Scholars Recommended program with a distinction in math or the Texas Scholars program with Advanced Measures. The class of 2005 is the only class that will have this option.

Beginning with the Class of 2006, students must choose two of the following requirements in addition to the Texas Scholars requirements to be considered a Texas Scholar in Keller ISD:

 A research project with presentation (which can be completed in the class of the student's choice)

 A portfolio with presentation (which can be completed in the class of the student's choice)

 A score of 3 or better on an Advanced Placement test

 Successful completion of a Dual Enrollment Class

 A license through a licensing board in a skill area (i.e. certification through a Career and Technology Education (CATE) class) When sending transcripts to colleges, Keller ISD counselors will clearly indicate that Texas Scholars from our high schools have met higher goals and completed the more challenging requirements.

Research conducted by the U.S. Department of Education indicates that rigorous course-taking in high school is the best predictor for success in higher education, and with the Class of 2005 required to take the exitlevel TAKS, exceeding minimum expectations will be an advantage.

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Scholars program. If you have any questions about Texas Scholars and your child's graduation plan, please feel free to contact your child's high school counselor.

#### Sincerely,

Judy Seifert Assistant Superintendent for Instruction



Denton ISD: Denton High School, Ryan High School, Fred Moore High School

Lewisville ISD: Dale Jackson Career Çenter, The Colony High School, Edward Marcus High School, Flower Mound High School, Hebron High School, Lewisville High School, Lewisville High School North, Lewisville Learning Center

Surrounding ISDs: Argyle, Aubrey, Gainesville, Krum, Lake Dallas, Little Elm, Northwest (Justin), Ponder, Valley View



#### LOCATED ON THE ARENA FLOOR;

Collin County Community College Kilgore College North Central Texas College Prairie View A&M University Prairie View A&M University School of Architecture Southern Methodist University Stephen F. Austin State University Tarrant County College Texas A&M University - College of Education - San Antonio Texas A&M University - College Station Texas A&M University - Commerce Texas A&M University - Corp of Cadets Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi Texas A&M University - Galveston Texas Christian University Texas State University - San Marcos Texas Tech University Texas Wesleyan University Texas Woman's University University of Houston University of North Texas UNT'- Air Force R.O.T.C. UNT - College of Arts and Sciences UNT - College of Business UNT - College of Education UNT - College of Engineering UNT - College of Music UNT - International Studies and Programs UNT - School of Community Service UNT - School of Merchandising and Hospitality Management UNT - School of Visual Arts UNT Talent Search University of Oklahoma University of Texas at Arlington University of Texas at Arlington School of Nursing University of Texas at Austin University of Texas at Dallas

University of Texas at El Paso University of Texas at San Antonio University of Texas at Tyler University of Texas Medical Branch of Allied Health - Galveston University of Texas Medical Branch of Nursing University of Texas of the Permian Basin Weatherford College West Texas A&M University

#### LOCATED IN THE COLISEUM:

ACT, Inc. Air Force R.O.T.C. (UNT) Angelo State University Army National Guard Reserve Art Institute of Dallas Austin College Barbizon School of Modeling **Baylor University Belmont University** Benedictine College Berry College Bethany College Blinn College Bradley University Brown University Bryant College Centenary College of Louisiana Chatham College The Citadel Clemson University College of Santa Fe Colorado School of Mines Colorado State University - Fort Collins Columbia University Concordia University at Austin Converse College Cottey College

Court Reporting Institute of Dallas

Criswell College Culinary Institute of America **Dallas Baptist University** DePauw University **Drury University** East Texas Baptist University Emory University Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising Florida Institute of Technology Florida Southern College Fort Lewis College George Mason University Georgia Tech Grayson County College Hardin-Simmons University Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges Hawaii Pacific University Hendrix College Hill College Houston Baptist University Howard Payne University Howard University Huston-Tillotson College Indiana University Jacksonville College Jarvis Christian College Johnson & Wales University Kansas State University Kaplan/Score! Prep KD Studio Actors Conservatory of the Southwest Lake Forest College LeTourneau University Lincoln Tech Institute Lon Morris College Louisiana Scholars College Louisiana State University Louisiana Tech University Lubbock Christian University Lyon College Mary Baldwin College Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) The Master's College McLennan Community College McMurry University Mesa State College Midwestern State University Model & Talent Industry Naval Recruiting Station - Denton Navarro College New Mexico Tech University Newman University North Lake College Northwestern State University Northwood University Ohio State University Oklahoma Baptist University Oklahoma City University Oklahoma State University **Ouachita Baptist University** Our Lady of the Lake University Parker College of Chiropractic Paul Quinn College Pennsylvania State University Randolph-Macon Woman's College Remington College **Rhodes** College Sam Houston State University Samford University Savannah College of Art & Design Schreiner University Seton Hall University Smith College Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Southern University and A&M College Southwestern University St. Edward's University St. Gregory's University St. Mary's University Stanford University Stephens College Sterling College Stevens Institute of Technology Sul Ross State University Tarleton State University Texas Lutheran University Texas Southern University Texas State Technical College - Marshall Texas State Technical College - Waco Texoma Tech Prep Trinity University Trinity Valley Community College Truman State University Tuskegee University Union University United States Air Force Academy United States Military Academy United States Navy University of Arizona University of Arkansas - Fayetteville University of Dallas University of Denver University of Evansville University of Hawaii at Manoa University of Kansas University of Kentucky University of Mary Hardin Baylor University of Massachusetts University of Miami University of Mississippi - Ole Miss University of Missouri - Columbia University of Nebraska - Lincoln University of New Mexico University of New Orleans University of Northern Colorado University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma University of St. Thomas University of the Incarnate Word University of the Ozarks University of the South University of Tulsa University of Wyoming Valparaiso University Vernon College Villanova University Wake Forest University Washington and Lee University Wayland Baptist University Wesleyan College Western State College of Colorado Westminster College William Woods University Xavier University

#### LOCATED IN THE GATEWAY CENTER:

(Exit door D of the Coliseum - - go across ramp; proceed to 1st floor Gateway Center Ballroom corridor)

Bank One/Sallie Mae Citibank - The Student Loan Corporation Educaid Frost National Bank JP Morgan Chase National College Funding Services Nellie Mae Southern Security College Funding Texas Bank Wells Fargo

## Special Thanks to: Denon ISD Counseling Staff Denon ISD R.O.T.C Denon ISD Counseling Staff UNT Office of Admission Staff UNT Office of Admission Staff UNT Admin Ebi Omega National Services Fraternity UNT Admin Ebi Omega National Services Fraternity UNT Admin Ebi Omega National Services Staff UNT Eagle Ambassadors UNT Eagle Ambassadors Hobdy Graphics and Signs

