

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jason Gordon
830-885-1081

Release Date: Nov. 22, 2010

Middle School curriculum meetings held, course selections for secondary students begin Dec. 6

To make sure all Comal ISD students are college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school, Comal ISD will implement Pre-AP strategies in all core content.

Middle school students will be engaged in high-level learning through which they develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in college.

The College and Career Readiness Curriculum (CCRC) in science and social studies will begin in 2011-12 for all three middle school grade levels. Math and English-Language Arts will be phased in over a three-year period from 2011-2014.

Currently between 20-30 percent of Comal ISD middle school students are enrolled in Pre-AP classes.

“The new accountability standards are aligned with the college readiness standards, which is why we must challenge our students for a more rigorous assessment,” said Dr. Jodi Duron, Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Student Services. “It doesn’t make sense to have fewer than 30 percent of our students taking Pre-AP classes when 100 percent of those students will be required to be college and career ready when they graduate from high school.”

Duron emphasized the fact that by the time students are juniors and seniors in high school they will have the opportunity to take dual-credit and/or AP classes that could provide them almost a year’s worth of college credit.

“When we raise the expectations for learning at a younger age, more students will have the opportunity to take advantage of college-level courses in high school,” she said. “To have a chance to graduate from high school with close to a year’s worth of college credit is what being college and career ready is

all about.”

A planning committee comprised of principals, teachers and curriculum staff helped Duron and her staff decide how to implement the CCRC.

Duron addressed the Comal ISD school board in September, October and November to provide updates on the CCRC. In addition, three Town Hall Meetings were held in November where parents and community members could ask questions about the new strategies.

For more information, including a summary of the Town Hall Meetings, visit www.comalisd.org and click on Curriculum.

Course selections for secondary students begin Dec. 6

The 2011-12 school year course selections for Comal ISD middle and high school students will take place from Dec. 6 through Jan. 10, 2011, which is two months EARLIER than when course selections have taken place in the past (February). Course guides will be made available to students and parents the week of Dec. 6.

Student course selections will occur earlier in the year to help the district better address staffing needs and master schedule planning. In addition, the new selection dates will align with the testing and application timeline Alamo Colleges has set for high school students interested in taking dual credit courses.

Student course selections will take place online this year.

The new selection process will allow for students and parents to work together from home in carefully choosing courses students need and want to take. On-site tech support will be provided during extended library hours on the campuses for students who do not have access to the Internet from home.

An easy step-by-step process and detailed instructions on the new online course selection process and curriculum fairs will be provided for parents and students along with the release of the course guides in December.

For more information, please contact your student’s school counselor.