

## 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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

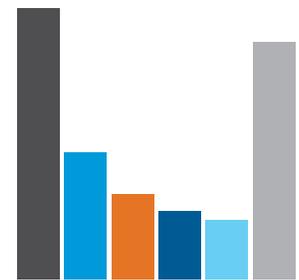
### SCHOOL STATS

**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](https://preap.org).