

SUCCESS STORY

Jubilee Christian Academy

Getting Started With Pre-AP

MAKING THE DECISION

Jubilee Christian Academy (JCA) is a mid-size Chinese-Filipino Christian school in Quezon City, Philippines, offering preschool to grade 12. In 2015, leaders flew to the U.S. to explore the AP[®] Program. After evaluating the curriculum and giving careful consideration as to how it would benefit students and other stakeholders, the decision was to offer AP classes in grades 11 and 12. After a few years of successfully growing the AP Program in their school, leaders began to consider how they could offer an equally challenging program for students in Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10.

“We needed to prepare and develop our students’ skills early on, since they are exposed to at least one or two AP subjects every year in our Senior High School, and local universities are now giving credits for AP courses.”

Data-driven research and conversations with schools in China and Taiwan led JCA to conclude that Pre-AP[®] was the best program to offer their students. They considered 3 things:

- would students be ready to handle the increased rigor,
- would parents be on board, and
- would teachers be willing to take on the work of implementing a new program.

They believed the answer to each question was, “Yes.”

PREPARING THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

Leaders presented the data and plan to offer Pre-AP to the school board and quickly received approval. They even received the Department of Education’s approval to teach a full year of Biology, in spite of the curriculum mandate to spiral all sciences throughout every grade level. These steps followed:

- School leaders held a parent orientation to discuss the initiative and how it would impact student performance. Given that parents send their children to Jubilee Christian Academy for its academic excellence, they were pleased.
- An onboarding experience was organized for students during the first week of school, so that all students would understand the expectations of Pre-AP.
- Teachers completed the Online Foundational Modules to learn about Pre-AP and met to discuss how to adapt their curriculum to include the international program.

“Everyone agreed that offering Pre-AP to all students would continue to raise the quality of teaching in our school.”



QUEZON CITY,
PHILIPPINES

TOP TIPS

- 1 Ensure the readiness of all stakeholders before implementing.
- 2 Encourage and provide a forum for constant communication amongst teachers and students.
- 3 Support the teachers, and allow them time to grow into Pre-AP.
- 4 Keep an open mind and willingness to adapt to the philosophies and pedagogy of Pre-AP.

“Don’t be afraid to stretch students beyond what they think they are capable of.”

Implementing Pre-AP

PURPOSEFUL PLANNING IS KEY

- The Pre-AP courses were offered to both the intensive and regular class sections, so all students would have access to the program.
- One Pre-AP course per grade level in grades 9 and 10 was offered in the first year. The goal was to cascade to the lower level in the following year and expand to two courses in succeeding school years.
- Coordinators overseeing both the Junior and Senior High Schools were able to see the big picture and work with teachers on how to adjust curriculum.

“Educators spent time collaborating to understand how to incorporate the Pre-AP shared principles in all aspects of their curriculum.”

The Impact of Pre-AP

INCREASED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Students are being exposed to a higher level of work and questioning than ever before.
- There is notably more collaboration and engagement than in previous years.

LEARNING COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

- Educators remodeled and aligned assessments to follow the instruction that is being done in Pre-AP.
- Teachers began encouraging more academic conversations and having students both ask and answer questions.
- Academic interaction between students and teachers has increased, leaving students feeling more empowered.

All quotations are from Frances Rea R. Gaza, Junior High School Principal.

PRE-AP COURSES IMPLEMENTED

- Biology
- English 1
- Geometry with Statistics

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