

## Understanding Academic Success Groups for Students 2019-2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the Academic Counselor, I continue to work diligently to ensure every student will graduate on time. This is the third year of Academic Success Group (ASG) program. I have continued developing resources to equip students who face some form of academic challenges that if not attended to, can lead to academic probation by the end of the semester or may cause them to be behind academically. Below you will find the purpose of ASGs, if you are not familiar with it already, the criteria for being in the program and what we cover when we meet.

Please talk with your student about this. I have also given them handouts on this very information below. This is to inform you periodically via phone calls or meetings when necessary about your student's specific academic progress throughout the semester. I will also connect with teachers periodically to work together to create remediation plans where needed to help students get back on track and remain there. We, as a school, want to be a village and cheerleader for our students to ensure they know we are 100% supportive of their academic growth and want to help build their confidence to be life-long learners and self-advocates, as well as see improvement and success in their academics because they deserve it!

**Purpose of Academic Success Groups (ASGs):** To help students who are academically struggling gain the skills and confidence to improve and become a self-advocate in their academic development and progress.

**New Academic Development:** As a school, we have changed our grading policy using a system called, *standard based grading*. Students are part of Academic Success Groups if:

- As of Spring 2019, if their grades haven't improved from last semester or currently:
  - Have 2 OR more INCOMPLETES, which is a F and/or have two or more F's.
  - And/or have below a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
- Still in ASG from previous school year's grades. Encourage them this isn't a punishment. Help them see this as an opportunity to correct and develop the study skills they need in conjunction with going to a tutor to help them improve academically and stay focused on their goals, because they can do it!

**NOTE:** A student will no longer need to attend ASG "IF" - they are able to demonstrate and raise their grades beyond the above criteria. We want to celebrate them when this occurs. We are happy to see their hard work and diligence in making improvements academically!

**How ASGs Work:** Students will meet with Ms. Holmes during one specific day of the week based on their grade level during their 9th period Monday through Thursday. *Each group will meet every other week to give the other week to teachers to help with academic needs.* The location of ASG will be held as of now, in the Art Room, unless otherwise told differently. Contact Ms. Holmes for any questions concerning this.



### When ASG Meets:

- **Monday 9th Period for:** Juniors (Thursday Advisory for follow up if needed)
- **Tuesday 9th Period for:** Seniors (Thursday Advisory for follow up if needed)
- **Wednesday 9th Period for:** Freshmen
- **Thursday 9th Period for:** Sophomores

### Goals of ASG:

- A variety of resources will be used from workbook curriculum (contact Ms. Holmes for the names of curriculum workbooks if you would like to use it with your student). Here are topics we will cover:
  - ✓ Academic self-regulation
  - ✓ Self-determination
  - ✓ Setting goals
  - ✓ Effective planning
  - ✓ Self-efficacy
  - ✓ Controlling anxiety
- Gain an understanding of their learning style.
- Learn how to audit and track their progress utilizing their transcript, including knowing graduation diploma requirements as well as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar information.
- Participate in activities to motivate and inspire students to gain an appreciation for learning, especially in the subjects they struggle in.
- Learn how to work in groups and gain an appreciation for peer help.
- Develop organizational and study skills to help them be more academically ready to tackle course work, which these principals can translate to prepare for college.
- Develop an attitude of determination not to give up when facing challenges of any kind.
- Discuss how to advocate for themselves such as, asking for help by way of tutoring.
- Learn how to develop time-management and testing skills to be successful and maintain their own academic progress.

The saying is true, it takes a village to raise a child. So, with the help of academic support, teachers, and administrators, parents/guardians, I firmly believe our students will do remarkable things. Let's pull out the greatness that lies within our students, one grade and one class at a time. If you have any questions about this, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Serving with You,

Patrice Holmes

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