



ABC's of 9th-Grade Student Success

Our Freshman Academy is committed to setting up your student for success in his or her High School career. We know that the transition from Middle School to High School can be a challenging and stressful one, so we have tried to provide you with the most up-to-date information from national research and our own experiences that will help you support your student through this new journey.

A ttendance

Freshman year attendance is consistently among the most powerful predictors of whether a student will complete high school. Some studies cite that low attendance in the first 30 days of freshman year is a stronger indicator that a student will fall behind in credits than any other middle school indicator. In addition, we have found that repeated tardies, especially at the beginning of the school day, commonly result in students' failing classes. Because of this, we make every effort to ensure that your student is present and on time to school every day.

What You Should Know:

- When students are tardy to class, they are assigned a before-or after-school detention by their teacher.
- Students are counted **absent** if they are 10 or more minutes late to any class.
- After the 5th tardy to a class, all ensuing times a student is late are counted as unexcused absences.
- **After a student is absent for more than 10 times to a single class, he or she may fail the course.**
- When a student is not at school, the parent or guardian must call our **Attendance Assistant, Shari Buckley, at 918-299-4415 (x2278)** to explain why the student is absent. Otherwise the student will be counted as truant. This applies to students who are not at school due to sickness.

How You Can Support Your Student:

- Make sure your student is getting appropriate amounts of sleep by setting and enforcing bed times and wake times.
- Reinforce to your student the importance of being on time in creating successful habits and in communicating that you value your time and the time of others.
- Routinely login to PowerSchool to keep track of the number of times your student has been absent.

B ehavior

One of the biggest adjustments for incoming freshman to make coming from the middle school environment is the change in the amount of freedom they are provided, along with the level of consistency with which rules are enforced when those freedoms aren't handled responsibly. We do consistently enforce our policies so that we can create a safe and orderly learning environment where your student can be successful. It can be very overwhelming for students who are assigned consequences for not following rules, when trying to balance them with the increased academic rigor and pressure to pass classes or achieve certain grade point averages. By taking the time to educate yourself and your student on our rules and policies, you can reinforce the need to follow those policies and avoid your student's having to juggle detentions, in-house assignments, or suspensions with their academic work.

Common Policies You Should Know:

- **Cell phones** should be turned off and put away during class time.
 - Consequence: cell phone confiscated for the school day, detentions
- All students should be in agreement with our **dress code**. The most common infractions are tank tops for boys and the length of shorts for girls.
 - Consequence: different clothes brought to the school so the student can change or the student spends the remainder of the day in the In-House Intervention room, detentions
- **Chromebooks** should be charged and in their cases at all times
 - Consequences: same as for cell phones
- **Student ID's** must be worn and displayed on the student's torso. If a student forgets or misplaces his or her ID, a new or temporary ID must be purchased before the beginning of the school day.
 - Consequences: ID replaced, detentions
- Use of cell phone or Chromebook for **inappropriate purposes** such as sending improper photos or engaging in bullying other students.
 - Consequences: loss of privileges, suspension
- ***Please refer to our handbook online to view the specific consequences for each infraction.***

How You Can Support Your Student:

- Monitor your student's cell phone and Chromebook use. Remind them about appropriate, considerate, and responsible use of technology, both at school and at home.
- Encourage your student to create responsible habits in regards to their dress and having their ID with them when they leave for school.
- Limit how often you call or text message your student at school. They will be subject to the rules even if the call or text is from you.

C

ompleted (and turned-in) Work

Nothing is more harmful to freshmen students' grades and earning credits toward graduation than not completing and turning in work. Many 9th-grade students still don't realize the numerical impact just one missing assignment or missed test can have on their percentage for a class. We always encourage our students to do the best they are capable of on each and every assignment. However, we also explain that even if an assignment hasn't been fully completed or a test wasn't entirely studied for, it is better for a student to turn in what they have or do the best they can than for them to not turn anything in, or worse, to try and cheat. Missing assignments are most commonly seen when a student is absent from school due to either an illness or some type of school business, such as an athletic or organization event.

What You Should Know:

- Every student is given one day to make up an assignment or to take a missed test or quiz due to an absence.
- Each teacher at the Freshman Academy is given the freedom to choose a policy toward late work. Some allow students to turn in late work at different intervals, others do not.
- It is a student's responsibility to work with the teachers in coordinating when and how they will make up missed work.

How You Can Support Your Student:

- Routinely check Canvas to keep your student accountable for any missing work.
- Encourage your student to use the time and resources available to them in completing quality work including Advisory and before-and after-school tutoring.