

A Parent's Guide to Supporting Your Applied Learning Middle School Student



Applied Learning Teacher Core Beliefs

- Foster a sense of community and lifelong learning
- Teach an understanding of accountability and each person's role in that concept
- Encourage and facilitate collaboration
- Provide avenues for students to find their voice
- Create an environment that promotes problem solving identification, inquiry, and problem solving

Accelerate and Enrichment plan

We want all our students to have the opportunity to take both electives this year and build a strong work habit otherwise known as "industry". We know industry is a skill students must have to be successful---this plan will not only teach students what it is, but actively cultivate it. Additionally, the plan would allow students to gain control and confidence in addressing their academic gaps regardless of how big without missing their elective classes that nurture their souls and give them something to look forward to at school. However, this plan of two electives means that there will be an independent/at home math and reading component students will be required to complete weekly. In other words, working that industry muscle!

If students do not complete this work at home---they will be given the gift of time to complete it during their elective period and be conferenced with about building their personal industry.

Reading Requirement

All our students are required to read and document their words thru AR tests with at least a 70% score. Regular ELA students must read and document 500,000 words, while our Pre-AP students must read and document 1,000,000. Students are required to meet the twice monthly Reading Checkpoints. If students miss a checkpoint they will be assigned to ZAP until they catch up. Students in English I will be reassigned to 8th grade Reading after more than one missed Reading Checkpoint. A huge thank you to our PTA for providing the handy dandy Reading Checkpoint calendar for your refrigerator at home!

Lunch

We are super excited to be able to provide students with an outside dining area. However, it is a privilege and it is their responsibility to throw away all their trash after eating. Students will be asked to help with clean-up if they “forget” and if it becomes a privilege they abuse---they will lose it. Breakfast and Lunch is free for all students this year!

ALA Tiger Bites aka The Yellow Pages

The ALA Tiger Bites is emailed to the address you used for online registration every week. All upcoming events and valuable information can be found here. There should never be a time when you do not know what is happening at school.

ZAP

ZAP stands for ZEROS AREN'T PERMITTED. The second week of school ZAP begins. Every Tuesday and Thursday we run a ZAP report. Students who are missing class assignments or have missed a Reading Checkpoint will be assigned to ZAP. Students assigned to ZAP will pick up their lunch in the cafeteria and then report to the auditorium for a working lunch to complete their work. **ZAP is for two days and is never punitive.** It is a positive academic success strategy to help students learn time management of their work.

Schedule

Students will attend eight classes a day and this includes Advisory.

Advisory

Advisory class is the heart of our program framework. Students will attend Advisory every day. In 6th grade a team of teachers work intentionally with each student to incorporate the core beliefs of Applied Learning in hands-on projects tackling campus issues. These guided projects will prepare students for the gradual release of independent projects they will complete in 7th/ 8th grade Advisory. In 7th/8th grade students will self-select from our Advisory Expo Catalog their three top choices for a semester of study from a menu of high interest topics. **Thursday August 19th in Advisory class students will review the EXPO Catalog and make their topic selection. Monday August 23rd, they begin their learning journey of the selected topic.**

Passing Periods

Students have a three-minute passing period. Each grade level has a designated hallway with all core classes grouped together. Students will be allowed to sign out of class to go to the bathroom as needed.

Morning Drop off/Bus

Car riders should be dropped off on the southside of the building. Students should not be dropped off before 8:45 because there is no supervision. Students should report to the cafeteria upon arrival. Students arriving after 9:00 may play outside or go to the cafeteria.

Bus riders will be picked up and dropped off on the northside of the building.

Dress Code

Students are required to wear FWISD standardized dress except on Fridays which is Spirit Shirt day. Free dress days are scheduled throughout the year.

Discipline/Restorative Discipline

We are a restorative discipline campus. When students make poor choices, it is a learning opportunity.

Counselor/Interventionist

We currently have a full-time counselor, Mrs. Essenmacher, and will also have a full-time interventionist by mid-September. The school counseling program is centered around four major components: 1. Prevention Education 2. Responsive Services 3. Individual Student Planning 4. Indirect Student Services. Each component is part of a balanced, comprehensive program designed to enhance students' success in the classroom and in their personal lives. Professional school counselors play a crucial role in maximizing educational opportunities. Counselors collaborate with parents, teachers and others in the community to: Prevent and eliminate barriers to learning; Equip students with the personal skills needed to lead healthy and successful lives; and Assist students' college and career readiness by exploring and pursuing academic and career opportunities. School counselors provide help and support to students of all ages, races, cultural backgrounds and circumstances to master the challenges of life! We provide responsive services designed to meet students' immediate needs and concerns. Responsive services may include counseling in individual or small-group settings or crisis response to address: risky behaviors, discipline (restorative circles), peer relationships (restorative circles), study skills, anxiety and stress, substance abuse, etc. The counselor will provide lessons designed to help all students develop basic life skills through small group and classroom lessons that focus on: decision making; goal setting; self and social awareness, responsible behavior, coping skills and help-seeking behaviors. The counselor and interventionist can also provide referrals to outside counseling agencies such as the Family Resource Center when longer term counseling may be needed.

Masks

During the August 10, 2021 Board of Education meeting, **Superintendent Kent P. Scribner** announced that a mask mandate for all students, employees and visitors is in place **effective immediately for all indoor instruction and activities.**

The Fort Worth ISD is scheduled to reopen to 100% in-person instruction on Monday, August 16. As per the superintendent's instructions all employees, students and visitors to campuses and District facilities will be required to wear face masks indoors. Masks will also be mandated at all District-related indoor activities and on all school buses.

The District will continually monitor the impact of this protocol and will revisit the requirement to wear masks as appropriate.

Additionally, Fort Worth ISD will perform contact tracing and notification of COVID cases as appropriate. This is beyond the Texas Education Agency requirements,

The District will also continue to recommend that all eligible persons receive COVID vaccinations. Social distancing (as much as possible), hand hygiene, and cleaning of facilities are also being stressed throughout the Fort Worth ISD.

In the event a mask is forgotten or breaks---students should report to the main office for a replacement.

