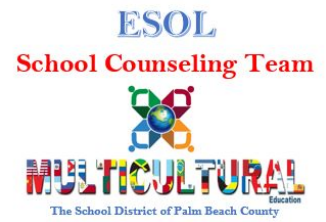




Middle School Parent Information Session Spring 2022



AGENDA



- Parent Action Plan for Middle School Students
- Attendance
- Communication / SIS Gateway
- Assessment Schedule
- Test Taking Strategies
- Middle School Promotion & Grading
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act



Parent Action Plan: Middle School



Middle school is important because your child is laying the foundation in a lot of subjects and forming study habits. Developing certain skills now will make it easier for your child to adjust to the challenges of high school and college later will lead to more college options. Here are some things you and your child can do to make the most of this time.

- Set goals for the year to help your child stay motivated and focused.
- Review school calendar together and make note of important dates.
- Check in regularly about schoolwork to celebrate successes and head off problems as a team.
- Get homework tips for your child.
- Talk about extracurricular activities to help your child identify interests and feel more engaged in school.
- Encourage your child to take the most-challenging courses that he or she can handle to build confidence and prepare him or her for higher-level high school classes.
- Come up with fun reading ideas to make reading enjoyable.
- Visit a nearby college together to get your child interested in college.





Attendance Policies & Procedures



The SDPBC Student and Family Handbook outlines the attendance procedures. All school procedures conform to the following District-wide procedures:

- Parents are responsible for notifying the school when a child will be absent and for informing the school of the reason for the absence.
- Parents are expected to notify the school when their child is absent and inform the school of the reason for the absence within 24 hours by a written note. A verbal communication from the parent for the reason of the absence would also be acceptable.
- School officials may require medical verification of absences.
- It is the responsibility of the student to make-up work missed because of absences.



Attendance Policies & Procedures for Middle School Students



- Middle School students must be in attendance for a minimum of 90 percent of the class time to earn a passing grade in a middle school course
- Students who are absent more than 10 percent of class time may earn a passing grade by demonstrating mastery as follows:
 - Earning a minimum grade of “D” for the quarter; and
 - Passing the quarterly assessment with a minimum grade of “D”.
- Students who successfully demonstrate mastery will receive the grade earned and the quarterly assessment is not factored into the grade

NOTE: *Students who do not earn a minimum grade of “D” for the quarter may demonstrate mastery by passing quarterly assessment with minimum grade of 70%. Students who successfully demonstrate mastery via quarterly assessment will earn a grade of D for that marking period. The high school attendance policy applies when a middle school student is enrolled in a high school credit course.*



Benefits of Daily Attendance



- **Achievement:**
Keep up with daily lessons, assignments, quizzes, tests, and pass reading and math assessments.
- **Exposure to the English language:**
Increase in language acquisition.
- **Belonging to the school community:**
Develop valuable social skills and good citizenship skills.
- **Importance of education:**
Learn that going to school is critical to educational success.



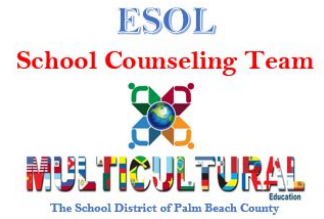
TWO-WAY Communication

Communication between families and the school is necessary for student success. Students perform better academically when parents take active roles in their child's education. Opportunities for two-way communication include:

- Parent conferences
- Student daily journals/ weekly or monthly folder checks
- Parent-teacher organizations or school community councils
- Telephone calls
- E-mail or school website
- Be sure to check your child's grades and progress on Student Information System (SIS) Gateway



Student Information System (SIS) Gateway



- The SIS Gateway provides parents and students with timely access to individual student schedules, assignments, assessment reports, attendance, and much more.
- Parents and students in secondary schools are able to see real-time grades and assignments.
- The SIS Gateway allows parents and students the ability to easily email teachers through this system.
- Students have access to the SIS Gateway via the icon available in the District's student portal.
- Parents must register for their SIS Gateway account with an active email address.
- Parents should contact their child's school and ask the Gateway Manager to get their activation code.



Statewide Assessments

Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs 2.0)

- Measures progress of English Language Learners (ELLs) proficiency in English, ensuring the skills needed in school to achieve at high levels, academically
- Sections of the test include: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing

Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics **Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) in Science Assessment**

- Measure reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies skills and knowledge that students should acquire
- Helps to determine level of success students have with all the State Standards.
- All students, enrolled in grades 3-10, and/or applicable courses that include an End-of-of Year exam are required to participate regardless of length of enrollment in U.S. school

Next Generation Sunshine States Standards (NGSS) End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

- Measure student achievement of standards for specific courses: Civics, Algebra 1, and Geometry
- Constitutes 30% of final course grade
- Middle grades students enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry must take the corresponding EOC assessment, not the grade-level mathematics assessment



Statewide Assessment Schedule

| Assessment | Students Tested | District Window |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACCESS for ELL's 2.0 | Grades 6, 7, 8 ELL students | January 24-March 18, 2022 |
| FSA ELA Writing | Grades 6, 7, 8 | April 4-15, 2022 |
| ELA Reading & Mathematics | Grade 6 | May 2-13, 2022 |
| ELA Reading & Mathematics | Grades 7, 8 | May 2-27, 2022 |
| Science | Grade 8 | May 9-20, 2022 |
| Civics EOC | Students enrolled in courses | May 2-27, 2022 |
| Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC | Students enrolled in courses | May 2-27, 2021 |



Accommodations for English Language Learners (ELLs) and Recently Exited ELLs Participating in Florida Statwide Assessments



Flexible Setting:

- Testing in a separate room with ESOL or heritage language teacher serving as test administrator.

Flexible Scheduling:

- Taking a test session during several brief periods within one school day; each test session must be completed within one school day.
- Additional time may be provided to complete a test session; each test session must be completed within one school day.

Assistance in Heritage Language

- ELLs may be provided limited assistance by an ESOL or heritage language teacher using student's heritage language for directions, prompts, items, and answer choices. Oral presentation of prompts, items, and answer choices in English or in student's heritage language is not permitted. Assistance may not be provided for words or phrases in ELA Reading and ELA Writing passages.
- Student questions about general test directions may be answered in student's heritage language.
- Specific questions about a word or phrase in a prompt, item, or answer choice that is confusing the student because of limited English proficiency may be answered, but giving assistance that will help the student produce, correct, or edit responses is prohibited. Assistance may not be provided for words or phrases in ELA Reading or ELA Writing passages.



How to Help Your Child Prepare for Statewide Assessments



Before the Test

- Review information sent home regarding testing schedules and ways to help prepare your child for testing.
- Help your child in areas that are difficult for him/her by providing extra practice.
- Talk with your child's teacher if you have concerns about the test or testing situation.

On Test Day

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast.
- Make sure your child is prepared with necessary materials, i.e. pencils, eraser, calculator.
- Remain positive and calm to reduce likelihood of test anxiety.

After the Test

- Talk with your child's teachers if you have questions about test results.
- Review tests with your child, especially any parts that he/she did not understand.

On a Daily Basis

- Assist with homework.
- Help develop good study habits, thinking skills, and positive attitude towards education.
- Ensure good attendance.
- Communicate with teachers.
- Encourage reading to increase vocabulary.



Middle School Promotion Requirements

In order for a student to be promoted to high school from the middle grades, they must successfully complete the following courses:

- Three middle grades or higher* courses in English language arts.
- Three middle grades or higher* courses in mathematics.
- Three middle grades or higher* courses in science.
- Three middle grades or higher* courses in social studies.
 - One of these social studies courses must be Civics. There is a statewide, standardized end-of-course exam for Civics that must be taken and factored in as 30% of a student's course grade.

**May include high school courses for high school credit.*

The statutory requirements for physical education (one semester each year) are found in [section 1003.455, Florida Statutes](#)



Middle School Grading

- Quarterly grades are determined by multiple measures, including classroom assignments, homework, examinations, tests, and/or quizzes
- Calculation of final grades:
 - Yearlong course = Average of grades from each of the four nine-week marking periods
 - Semester long course = Average of grades from the two marking periods
 - Course with an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment, such as Civics = Average of four marking periods count as 70% and Civics EOC counts as 30%
- Students must earn 4 “Quality Points” per subject area by the end of the course.
 - A = 4 quality Points (Outstanding)
 - B = 3 Quality Points (Above Average)
 - C = 2 Quality Points (Average)
 - D = 1 Quality Point (Lowest Acceptable)
 - F = 0 Points (Failure)

** Course recovery is an option for students who earn an F in a marking period of a middle school course in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and/or social studies.*



High School Credits in Middle School



- **High School Credit Courses offered to Middle School Students may include:**
Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry Honors, Physical Science, Spanish 1, and some computer courses
- **Benefits:**
 - Students may earn both high school and middle school credit
 - Provides opportunity to enroll in higher level courses when they begin high school
 - Allows more time for taking elective coursework in high school in which they have an interest
- **Considerations:**
 - High school rules apply for grading and attendance
 - Courses will be used to calculate high school GPA and will remain part of student's permanent academic transcript
 - High School GPA is used for graduation, scholarships, college admission, athletic eligibility, extracurricular activity, and cumulative class ranking
 - Current attitudes and motivation toward their studies
 - Maturity level
 - Extracurricular activities



Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act



- **Provides students and families access to mental health services**
 - All school staff have participated in training on mental health
 - Mental health professionals including, School Counselors, School Psychologists, and Behavioral Health Professionals
 - Agreements with local agencies to provide Licensed Mental Health Counselors to provide direct therapeutic services
- **Where to Turn for Help**
 - Parents/guardians seeking help can call their school to request to speak to a School Counselor
 - At any time, students can ask to speak to an adult on campus including a School Police Officer or a School Counselor
 - Student Crime Stoppers: 1-800-458- TIPS (8477)
 - Suicide Help Line: 1-800-273-8255
 - District Bullying Hotline: 561-434-8200
 - 211 Helpline and Crisis Hotline



Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act



- **School Safety** - Highly skilled School Police Officers, single point of entry, School Police Aides, Crisis Response Teams, School Police K-9
- **FortifyFL** - Suspicious activity app to report tips in real-time to School Police, and local law enforcement agencies



What to Do If You See a Social Media Threat

1. Take a screenshot of the threat. DO NOT send it or share it except with law enforcement or a school administrator.
2. Call School Police (561) 434-8700 or your local law enforcement agency and report the image.
3. You can also send the image through the FortifyFL App



Questions?



Thanks!

