

10 Keys to Success at Allen Park Middle School

1. **Consistent Communication:** No one likes surprises. The best way for us to work together as a team is to share information on a consistent basis. We provide a number of mechanisms to monitor student achievement, school events, and to communicate directly with teachers, counselors, and administration. If there are problems you are aware of, don't keep them a secret!
2. **Social Networking vs. Education:** The middle school years are often challenging years for adolescents. Without consistent guidance, social priorities can take precedent over academic ones. Adolescents need parents and other adults in their lives to remind them of what is important. **In our experience, middle school aged students are not mature enough to responsibly use social networking sites, including: Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook. In fact, these technological outlets often cause tremendous problems.**
3. **Daily Homework Routine:** All students should be working a minimum of one hour a night on "assigned work" and or studying for quizzes, tests, completing papers or projects. The homework routine should be non-negotiable and established as an extension of the school day.
4. **Organization:** A six hour day, passing time, different teachers all present challenges to 6th grade students. Working with your child to develop a structured means of organizing, completing, and turning in their assignments is vital to success. Utilizing a student planner and bi-weekly locker clean outs are essential for 6th grade students.
5. **No Missing Assignments:** This should be the standard. Grades are determined based upon a point scale. A missing assignment is recorded as a "Zero." This goes hand in hand with teacher communication (email, MiStar), Daily Homework Routine, and developing good Organizational skills. Homework is assigned to reinforce concepts that are presented in class. Without this practice, mastery is very difficult.
6. **Know the Rules and Expectations and Follow Them:** The staff and administration at APMS clearly communicate and establish high expectations for student behavior and attitude. In our building everything is predicated on respect. Students who do not meet behavioral expectations are held strictly to the District Code of Conduct. Consequently, suspension time can have an adverse effect on academic achievement.
7. **Connection to School:** Becoming involved in a structured after school activity, sport, or club is highly correlated to academic achievement. Students who are involved in activities beyond the classroom develop positive associations with school, gain adult mentors, and consequently (data demonstrates) perform better academically than those who do not. We offer something for everyone.
8. **Develop Strong Reading Skills:** For some students, reading comes naturally. For others, it is a struggle. It is essential for students who are currently reading below grade level to spend additional time working beyond the school day to improve their reading skills. The only way to improve is to practice.
9. **Utilize our Programs:** The school staff and administration has worked hard to develop programming designed to assist and benefit your child. These programs include, but are not limited to: Lunch Bunch, Homework Station, Before and After School Teacher Tutoring. Students that struggle academically, but consistently participate in these programs show tremendous growth.
10. **Support Your Teachers and School Administration:** We have found that when parents and school unite, communicate consistently, and work cooperatively we can most effectively help our children achieve.