



Camerado Springs Middle School

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First Trimester has come to an end and Second Trimester has begun. For such a crazy beginning of the year, it sure is flying by. We hope families had the opportunity to relax and unwind over Thanksgiving.

A common theme teachers noticed during conferences was that students are having a hard time managing their learning at home. It makes sense, home is a place to unwind and let loose after being in school all day. In our state of hybrid learning, however, there are expectations that students will be spending a couple of hours at home on school work. For many, carving out the time to accomplish this is a challenge.

Our International Baccalaureate Program incorporates instruction for students around their Approaches to Learning (ATL) Skills and works support students as they toggle between learning environments.

“The focus of ATL in the MYP [Middle Years Program] is on helping students to develop the self-knowledge and skills they need to enjoy a lifetime of learning. ATL skills empower students to succeed in meeting the challenging objectives of MYP subject groups and prepare them for further success in rigorous academic programmes.” (~Principles to Practice, 2017)

As such, the ATL skill cluster our teachers have been working on more than ever this year is called out as: **Self-Management**, specifically **organization**. The following is an example of an anchor chart used in classrooms to align the instructional vocabulary for students.

ATL: Self-Management; organization

Learning Goal: We are learning how to manage our time and tasks effectively.

Success Criteria:

- keep and use a weekly planner for assignments
- bring necessary equipment and supplies to class
- meet deadlines

One way you can support your child at home is to work with your child to establish a routine of rest and school work that will help keep him/her on track. If your student is in the **AM cohort**, he/she might find it best to come home after school, rest for an hour or so, then check their binder reminder/planner for assignments and spend an hour or two on school work in order to be prepared for class. You can support your child by helping establish a time when school work should begin.

If your student is in the **PM cohort**, he/she might find more flexibility in his/her schedule. However, with flexibility comes the ability to forget. You can support your student and help establish when school work is going to happen (after school or the next morning before school). Either way you decide, setting a time to check your binder reminder for assignments and spending time on school work will help him/her be better prepared for class.

Teachers are continuing to post assignments in Google Classroom and the Home Access Center can provide you an up-to-date list of assignments your child has submitted as well as his/her grades. It is more important than ever to take a peek once or twice a week to keep yourself in the loop. It's a practice we are also encouraging students to do as an additional way to keep themselves on track.

Thank you again for your continued support in making Camerado Springs a great place for our students and staff.

Douglas Shupe, Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Shupe".

Melinda Spooner, Assistant Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melinda Spooner".

Amy Gargani, IB Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy S. Gargani".