



# Cameron Springs Middle School

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It's hard to believe the end of the first quarter/trimester is right around the corner. A lot of learning has happened in such a short amount of time. It's a great time to check Home Access Center (HAC) and be "Principled" about completing missing assignments. Part of being "Principled" is to take responsibility for our actions and resulting consequences. An unfortunate consequence of missing assignments is a grade that doesn't reflect what you have learned.

Last month students focused on being Principled. Students heard teachers reinforcing being principled academically: being honest in our work and socially: taking responsibility for your choices and the resulting consequences (both positive and negative). Owning their choices is a big part of growing up in Middle School. You will hear "being Principled" and "acting with Integrity" used interchangeably as they both support the end, taking responsibility for your actions.

Our Learner Profile focus for October is on being an: **Inquirer**

Being an "Inquirer" means we ask questions and strive to be curious. We wonder about things we don't understand and seek to know more.

Teachers and staff will be working with students to emphasize the importance of being an inquirer. We want students to know it's encouraged to ask questions in order to better understand. As adults, when something doesn't make sense, we ask questions. This should also be true of students. By inquiring, students are advocating for their learning...always a good thing!

One way teachers are encouraging students to ask questions is to normalize the practice. Instead of saying "Any Questions?" we are asking "What questions do you have?" "Any questions?" suggests meaning should be clear. "What questions do you have?" suggests we EXPECT questions, we want to know what's not clear so we can help fix up understanding, we are here to support learning.

Along with a learner profile focus, we have also been focusing on some Approaches to Learning Skills (ATLs). Students have been practicing being empathetic (**ATL: Social Skills; Collaboration-Empathy**). Our focus has been on: listening to others without interrupting; asking questions to better understand others and their lives; learning from others and their experiences. Being empathetic is a lifelong skill that will help students be successful in all capacities.

Douglas Shupe, Principal

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Melinda Spooner, Assistant Principal

Handwritten signature of Melinda Spooner in black ink.

Amy Gargani, IB Coordinator

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