The Germantown Academy Middle School Academic Support Program

The purpose of the Academic Support Program in the Middle School is to provide support for students who have demonstrated a need for additional help with their academic work.

Academic Support Program Components (descriptions below)	
Available to All Students	**Available When Recommended by a Psychoeducational Evaluation**
Advisor Interventions	Extra Time on Assessments
After School Study Hall (ASSH)	Study Group
Math Center	Reading Lab
Writing Center	Learning Ally Audiobooks

Advisor Interventions *(available to all students)***:**
Advisor interventions may include, as needed:

- Planbook checks
- Before and after school check-ins
- Facilitating meetings between students and academic teachers
- Organizational support
- Bi-weekly communications with parents and academic teachers

After School Study Hall (ASSH) *(available to all students)***:**
After School Study Hall runs Monday through Thursday from 3-4:00pm. It is proctored by a faculty member whose role is to monitor students' progress and offer assistance as needed in areas such as time management, organization, and prioritization of tasks. Students who have demonstrated a pattern of inconsistent homework completion may be assigned to ASSH by a teacher, advisor, or Head Advisor, and are expected to fully utilize their planbooks to keep track of assignments. ASSH is also open to any students who choose to attend whenever they think it would be beneficial.

How are students referred/assigned to After School Study Hall?

- ➔ A teacher or advisor who would like to assign a student to ASSH should first consult with the student's Head Advisor, and then contact parents and the ASSH proctor in advance of the study hall day.
- ➔ ASSH may be assigned the day-of under the following conditions:
  - The teacher or advisor has previously communicated to the student's parents the circumstances under which a day-of assignment could happen
  - The student is assigned to ASSH no later than 12:45
  - The teacher or advisor contacts the student's parents by phone and the ASSH proctor as soon as possible on the day of the study hall
  - Even if these conditions are met, there may be family circumstances that necessitate the student attending ASSH on a future date

Math and Writing Centers *(available to all students):*
The Math and Writing Centers are open during Flex Period most days of the rotation. Each is staffed by a faculty member who can offer individual support with math or writing assignments. Students should sign up using the link in the Student Resource Center of Canvas and should sign out of their study hall before going.

Extra time on in-class assessments *(when recommended in psychoeducational evaluation)***:**
If it is recommended by a student's educational testing, they may receive time and a half on in-class assessments, including quizzes, timed essays, tests, and final exams. We aim to teach students to advocate for their learning needs throughout their time in Middle School, and to this end, advisors and academic teachers will support students in requesting and arranging to use their extra time until they are able to do so independently. A great way for students to start is by asking teachers, "How should I use my extra time on this assessment?"

Study Group *(when recommended in psychoeducational evaluation)*:
Study Group meets in small groups during flex time study hall periods. In SG, students receive extra guidance from an Academic Support Program teacher. They learn to use their Canvas calendars and planbooks as tools, identify short and long-term goals, hone organizational and study strategies, and work on completion of their specific course assignments. The ultimate goal of Study Group is for students to acquire the skills necessary to manage their schoolwork successfully and independently.

Reading Lab *(when recommended in psychoeducational evaluation)***:**
In Reading Lab, students receive literacy support from our Middle and Upper School Learning and Reading Specialist. Support will include individualized targeted interventions, typically integrated into course-related literacy assignments.

How are students placed in Study Group or Reading Lab?

- Rising sixth graders are placed into the program based upon recommendations by the Lower School as part of the transition process.
- Students may be added to the program during the academic year when an ongoing pattern of difficulties across multiple areas persists. This step is taken after regular attendance at ASSH (if applicable), and other interventions from the student's advisor, Head Advisor, and academic teachers (see above).
- Placement in Reading Lab requires a diagnosis of a specific learning disability in reading. Placement in Study Group does not require a diagnosis of a learning disability, but special consideration is given when a diagnosis is present.
- Each student's placement in Study Group or Reading Lab is reviewed at the conclusion of each semester and the school year. The ASP team, in coordination with teachers and advisors, reviews and recommends changes as necessary.

Learning Ally *(when recommended in psychoeducational evaluation)***:**
Germantown Academy has a subscription to Learning Ally Audiobooks. We are able to create accounts for students with documented reading disabilities. Teachers will help students locate the texts they need for their classes and keep them on their "bookshelves" for independent reading.