

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL NINTH GRADE TRANSITION

I. Classes and Teachers

- A. Accelerated block has four classes a day and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours spent in each class. An absence one day actually equals two absences in regard to the class work. Five absences will cause loss of credit and a petition for credit must be submitted with doctor's notes even if absences are excused. Always try to schedule doctor appointments after school. Opportunity for credit recovery will be available for only 10 days after the 9 weeks is over. After that credit is lost permanently.
- B. Before and after school tutoring is available if a student is having trouble in a class.
- C. All students can re-test any test failed, for a 70%. This does not apply to final exams. Students need to arrange with their teachers for re-testing before or after school.
- D. Parents can reach teachers either by calling 469-713-5178 and ask the receptionist for the teacher's extension to leave a message for a call back, or by emailing using the school directory handout or school website: www.lisd.net. Then hit on schools and the The Colony High School website.
- E. Progress report grades are sent home every three weeks and downloaded in the school computer system. They can be accessed by counselors, so feel free to contact your counselor if your student didn't bring home the progress reports or report cards. Be sure to access the "On Line Parent Access" for grades.
- F. Failed courses that are required for graduation must be repeated for credit. Options include dropping electives during school or Summer School. CBE's (credit by exam) are available in several classes and available through your school counselor. The district assesses a \$30 fee for each exam. This is only an option if the attendance requirement in the course was met.
- G. Regarding Homework, no late work will be accepted. If a student is present on the day the homework is assigned and also on the day the homework is taken up, the work should be turned in as assigned. If not, they will receive no credit for that work.

II. Studying

- A. High school requires more study time than middle school. Arrange at least 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours each evening for homework and study time. This can be broke into time segments throughout the evening or all together with a couple short breaks.

- B. Students should get accustomed to taking all their books home each day in order to study each subject. Core classes will have books checked out directly to the students. Students are responsible for their upkeep.
- C. Studying means reviewing all notes, worksheets, text information... from the beginning of the unit through today. Do this nightly. Also never turn in first run work. Always proof all homework and correct errors so the student's best work effort is turned in, not a rough draft.
- D. Students must put forth more energy to focus and stay on task during class and during study time at home. Make sure your student takes notes well and learns a few shortcuts and abbreviations to help. They need to learn how to maintain organized notebooks and folders for each class in order to always have easy access to information for efficient study time. This seems to be a chronic struggle.

III. Personal Time

- A. Adequate sleep for teens is critical. Studies show that eight hours really is necessary to give them the opportunity to function and concentrate at their best. Please limit late night TV viewing and phone conversations.
- B. Discussions about students' future plans are extremely healthy. Teens tend to only think about the present. Direct attention to the reality of next year, the year after, the years after high school and the years after that. Such discussion helps students see how their habits and performance today greatly impact where they will be in a few years. This helps improve their motivation today when they can see this connection between today and their years ahead.
- C. *EMOTIONS* during the teen years tend to be extreme, no matter the situation. Anger, sadness, happiness... are felt much deeper at this age. Try to avoid serious discussions when emotions are in control. Wait until the emotion has eased and logic and rationale abilities are back.
- D. Feel free to contact your counselor regarding any concerns you have regarding your student. Counselors are available and willing to be of any help to you and your student to ensure a successful transition to high school.