

Middle School Parents,

Several weeks ago, I sent you a summary of information related to school safety. This next communication is timely for fourth quarter, because it is a time of year when students are involved in spring sports and activities, classes may involve more projects, and learning targets may seem harder to students. Time management is an area many of us have to pay attention to in our lives, and we know that students experience this too, especially now. I want to provide you additional information regarding the ongoing efforts to support student learning.

Planners

- Each student is provided a planner for organization of their homework, projects, quizzes and tests.
- Each teacher posts this type of information in their classrooms, typically with a learning agenda for the day and learning targets. You may see learning targets written as an I Can statement, a sentence that conveys what the student is learning as content or skills.
- Teachers have routines in their classes. For example, students may fill out their planner upon sitting down in math class. It might be the first thing they do each day for that class.

Retake and Redo Plans

- Teachers have identified the content and skills that are essential for all students to learn. If a student has not learned them by the time a teacher grades, there are guidelines each teacher follows for having a student retake or redo their work.
 - Teachers have discretion for what is available for retakes and to be redone.
 - There must be a teaching and learning plan before a student retakes/redo, and the parent must sign off on the plan. The plan form is provided to the student.
 - Students will only retake or redo the concepts/parts they did not master.
 - Full credit will be attainable. For example, if the student shows they learned what is needed, they are not given partial credit for that learning.
- Teaching and learning plans are to be rigorous enough to prevent students from thinking that they will purposely not do well the first time just to be able to retake. Note, the teacher has the discretion to decide if a retake will be offered. We are concerned about learning, but we also recognize deadlines, study skills, and effort.

Supports

- Math Support and Project Read are classes that some students take in addition to their regular math and language arts classes. Talk with your child's teacher if you think these options need reviewed for your student.
- READ occurs four days per week for 20 minutes. During this time, all students are engaged in reading activities that match their needs. That might be extension work for highly proficient students, leisure reading, or intensive instruction for students reading below proficiency.

Student Advocacy

- Students can become self-advocates for their learning by helping the teacher to know when they need more help. These are some phrases students can use.
 - Questions that I still have...
 - I don't understand (this part)...
 - Can you give another example of ...

I hope that this information has been helpful in knowing some of the supports at the middle school. Your student is important, and your efforts to partner with us for their education is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Annette Jauron, Principal
Indianola Middle School