

# **Dimensions Academy Middle School**

## **Academic Guidelines & Behavior Expectations**

Dimensions Academy (DA) was developed to challenge and nurture highly able students. In order to maintain a high level of academic rigor and a productive learning environment, participation in DA requires a high level of academic and behavioral standards. The guidelines below were carefully crafted in order to set positive boundaries and nurture your child's growth.

### **Academic Expectations**

All DA students must maintain a year-end grade point average (GPA) of B- (2.667) or above in Dimensions Academy (DA) subjects in order to remain in the program. DA academic performance is monitored throughout the course of the year in the following subjects:

#### **6th Grade**

DA Language Arts  
DA Seminar  
DA Science  
DA Social Studies

#### **7th Grade**

DA Language Arts  
DA Seminar  
DA Science  
DA Social Studies

#### **8th Grade**

DA Language Arts  
DA Science  
DA Social Studies

### **Academic Warnings**

One of our goals is to help parents monitor and support those DA students who struggle academically. If a student struggles to maintain the required B- GPA in DA subjects, parents receive academic warning letters as follows:

- Midterm warning letters: Sent to parents at the trimester midpoint.
- Trimester warning letters: Sent to parents at the end of each trimester.

### **Monitor Academic Progress Online**

Parents and students should check academic progress online by using the HUB and *Infinite Campus*. All parents receive an email at the beginning of the school year with a username and password that works for both:

- HUB - Provides daily emails to parents on upcoming assignments and tests.
- *Infinite Campus* - Provides the most up-to-date grades in all classes.

### **Behavior Expectations**

All DA students are expected to demonstrate behaviors that contribute to a positive learning environment for everyone. Students who choose to negatively impact the learning environment may be asked to leave the DA program (see the "DA Honor Code" on the next page)

### **DA Exit Policy**

If students who receive academic warnings do not improve their year-end DA GPA to B- or better, they are exited from the DA program for the following year. (Note: Students who struggle academically can be exited during the year if parents, teachers and GT administration agree it is in the best interest of the student.)

## **DA Honor Code**

***As a DA student, I will complete my own original work, use my class time wisely, ask for help when needed, and strive for quality. I will do my best to be a good citizen within the DA community, within the school community, and beyond.***

### **DA Honor Code & Independent Work**

Students must do their own schoolwork in the DA program. Projects like National History Day must be done independently of parents and older siblings. Having parents or others complete work for students violates the DA Honor Code and could jeopardize a child's participation in the DA program.

### **DA Honor Code & Plagiarism**

Students who are caught plagiarizing (using others' ideas and/or content without giving them proper credit) are jeopardizing their participation in the DA program. Plagiarism is not taken lightly and could result in removal from the program.

### **DA Honor Code & Productive Class Time**

Students need to utilize class time productively to get work completed. When students are not using class time well, they must realize that they will not receive late work extensions beyond the school policy. Also, if students' behavior during wasted class time negatively impacts the learning of others, they are jeopardizing their participation in the DA program.

### **Late Work & Retake Policy**

DA students must adhere to school policy in regards to Late Work, Missing Work, and Retakes. Please refer to the Olson Middle and Oak Grove Middle school policies for more defined specifics. Both schools' policies follow these basic guidelines:

- Late or Missing Work must be completed prior to the summative (final) assessment. This is a student's last chance to turn in work from the current unit of study. Teachers have discretion as to what specific work will be accepted and when, prior to the summative assessment. Please note that some projects and assignments simply cannot be re-done, given their nature/structure (e.g. National History Day, in-class presentations, etc.).
- Students can retake summative assessments (final tests, projects, or papers) per building policies. Some buildings only allow retakes when students have demonstrated "proof of practice" and/or significant effort at re-learning the content prior to being allowed to retake an assessment. Some allow only 1 retake per trimester. Check with your building policies on retakes.

## DA Parents & Advocacy

A healthy level of respectful advocacy on parents' part is always welcome. However, when parents move beyond "healthy advocacy," the behaviors start to resemble "badgering" and "bullying" of teachers, neither of which is a productive solution. As we strive to push students to greater independence, we sometimes have to let them learn from natural consequences.

Please follow these DA Parent Behavior Guidelines closely while your child is in the program:

### **Parents may certainly communicate with teachers, but parent emails and calls should not get excessive.**

- If you'd like to check on your child's progress regularly, we suggest checking the Hub. If you'd like some feedback from teachers beyond what is communicated through the Hub, we recommend emailing the entire team at once, but no more than one time per week.
- **We also recommend that you have your child email teachers directly when they have questions.** That kind of self-advocacy is an important life skill and one that s/he should practice now. Your role should transition to "Guide on the Side" at this point in your child's educational journey.

### **Parents must follow school policies for Late or Missing Work and Retakes.**

- Teachers will hold DA students to the same school policies as all other students.
- Please be respectful of these policies by not asking for multiple retakes, extensions for turn-in dates for missing/late work, etc. (If a child is absent/sick, reasonable extensions are allowed, as determined by the teacher.)
- Students need boundaries and deadlines, just as adults do. Boundaries are healthy learning tools and promote important life skills.

## **Twice-exceptional (2e) Students & Parent Advocacy**

If your gifted child has been diagnosed with a learning challenge (ADHD, Autism, etc.), please know that your child is still welcome in the DA program. However, the demands of the program might be stressful at times. Please advocate respectfully and know that we are on your child's team and want the best for her/him.

The policies and expectations in this document apply to our 2e learners. In addition, Bloomington staff will respectfully adhere to the expectations outlined in student IEPs and 504 plans. NOTE: DA students on IEPs must meet the academic expectations/goals of the IEP in order to remain in the DA program.