

Wren High School Freshman Academy

Academic Enhancement Best Practices

Purpose: Academic Enhancement is a course designed to teach and allow students to practice study and test-taking skills, reinforce positive character traits, develop problem-solving and communication skills, and support students academically in their transition to high school.

Goals for Students:

- Habitually practice personal skills necessary for success
- Learn and practice organization skills using a variety of strategies and tools
- Pursue academic success by utilizing available resources and support.
- Think and solve real-world problems through collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.
- Develop positive relationships with peers and staff

Responsibilities of Teachers:

- Create a climate of support that encourages and motivates students
- Implement meaningful lesson plans with fidelity
- Pursue positive individual relationships with every student through supportive accountability



AE Lesson Components

**Not every component will be included in every lesson*

Get it Together

Check email

Reconcile Classroom to Calendar and Tasks

Keep notebooks, bookbags, and online information organized and accessible

Something Old

Review a past lesson or experience to create connections to new information

Something New

New information (CNN-10, life-skills lesson, assembly, etc)

New skill (technology, life-skill, academic content, etc.)

New idea (consider viewpoints and opinions different from their own)

Reading is Fundamental

~15 minutes of SSR

Tutor Time

"I Need Help With" form

"Come and See Me" form

Check-In

Getting to Know You Prompt - *Student and teacher draw and responds to a random prompt*

Challenges and Achievements - *Describe both a recent challenge and success*

Review grades - *Pull up the Portal matrix and review grades, missing assignments, etc.*

Goals and Accountability - *Agree on at least one short-term goal with rewards and consequence*

Circle Back Around

Teams may adjust schedules to provide additional time in specific classes by absorbing the AE into the time allotted for core classes.

Special Days

Activities centered around holidays or school events

AE Units of Study

- I. First Days of School
 - A. Overview (Tour, Alma Mater, Handbook, Procedures)
 - B. Chromebook Basics
 - C. Handbook
 - D. Guidance and Media Center

- II. Finding Success
 - A. Goal Setting
 - B. Time Management
 - C. Learning Styles and Study Skills
 - D. Note Taking

- III. A Better You
 - A. Personality test
 - B. What Would You Do?
 - C. Personal Health and Fitness
 - D. Erin's Law

- IV. Preparing for Life After High School
 - A. What are the options
 - B. Graduation and admission requirements
 - C. College and Career research
 - D. Completing Forms and Job Applications

- V. Life Skills
 - A. Groceries and Basic Meal Prep
 - B. Laundry
 - C. Financial Literacy
 - D. Driving Safety
 - E. CPR Certification

- VI. Communication Skills
 - A. Signature Practice
 - B. Social Media
 - C. Professional versus casual communication
 - D. Letter Writing

- VII. Service to Others
 - A. What does philanthropy mean to me?
 - B. Developing a service project