

Freshman Success

Dr. Ashley Causey

Room 333

Hillcrest High School

Course description: is a one credit course designed to provide students with the tools needed to evolve into independent learners and to facilitate the transition from the middle school environment to a high school setting. Freshman success is a course which prepares students with the skills and habits of a mind necessary to make a successful academic, social, and emotional transition to high school and postsecondary endeavors. Students will develop strategies to increase their study skills, time management, listening, independent thinking, critical reading, effective written and oral communication, and continuous learning.

Freshman Success will use technology, recognition, collaboration, and guest speakers to facilitate the development of good study skills, positive personal qualities and high school community awareness. The students set positive goals for themselves and identify specific steps that enable them to reach their goals. Emphasis is placed on career planning and development as the students learn to use the numerous resources available through the School Counseling Office. Classroom activities help students develop a confident attitude and obtain an awareness of good high school citizenship. Teachers will work closely with students and school counselors to help students learn conflict resolutions and decision making skills. Building on the Greenville County School District's strength in technology, student's learn to "surf the internet" and create documents with graphics. Students in Freshman Success with the help of the school counselors and Greenville County assessment program, will have an opportunity to develop a career plan that is specific to the desires of each individual student. Employability skills and financial planning will also be key components in preparing each student for the real life scenario they will face beyond high school.

Course goal: The primary goal for Freshman success is to provide students with the knowledge and ability to become independent learners and good high school citizens. Knowing how to learn is an essential skill for today's youth as they prepare for post-secondary education or the workplace. Interpersonal and group skills are also necessary to achieve success in life. Freshman success will provide students with the confidence and assurance to create their own successes in their academic studies and their personal lives. This class will also help students with the vital skill of SELF DISCIPLINE.

Course Topics and Learning Goals:

Unit 1: Introduction and HHS- - 5 days

1. The students will be familiar with school personnel and facilities.
2. The students will know and observe the procedures, rules, and expectations of the school.
3. The students will learn to use technology and media resources.
4. The students will learn and demonstrate school and community loyalty and pride.
5. The students will gain an understanding of teachers, peers, and self.

Unit 2: Habit 1: Be Proactive/ Social Media awareness-- 10 days

In this section, students will;

1. Develop motivation; take pride in work.
2. Act responsibly toward self, family, school, community, nation, and the world.
3. Show initiative and entrepreneurialism.
4. Use unique talents and abilities to full potential.
5. Think about choices,; be accountable and responsible for actions and results, and understand that choices affect others.

Unit 3: Habit 2: Begin with the end in mind/ SMART GOALS-- 10 days

In this section, students will

1. Use critical thinking to organize information
2. Develop intrapersonal skills of self-confidence and self-management
3. Use creative and entrepreneurial thinking to solve problems
4. Develop the ability to set goals and to follow through
5. Develop strong oral and written communication skills.

Unit 4: Habit 3: Put first thing first/ Financial literacy-- 10 days

In this section, students will

1. Demonstrate time management skills
2. Cultivate a strong work ethic, flexibility, and adaptability.
3. Develop intrapersonal skills of self-management
4. Be accountable and responsible for actions and results.
5. Begin to cultivate analytical skills

Unit 5: Habit 4: Think win-win-- 10 days

In this section, students will

1. Use unique talents and abilities to the fullest; value others' talents and abilities.
2. Develop flexibility and adaptability
3. Be open-minded and nonjudgmental when considering the views of others
4. Demonstrate attentive listening skills
5. Cultivate a spirit of cooperation to live in an interdependent community and world

Unit 6: Habit 5: Seek first to understand, then be understood/ Alcohol awareness--10 days

In this section, students will

1. Demonstrate attentive- listening skills to build and maintain healthy relationships
2. Cultivate good social and communication skills
3. Show compassion toward others, share, and put others first
4. Appreciate different relationships
5. Learn to relate to people who are alike as well as different, and work effectively in group settings.

Unit 7: Habit 6: Synergize/ Dream Job/ Community Speakers -- 10 days

In this section, students will

1. Express and present information and ideas clearly in oral, visual, and written forms.
2. Use unique talents and abilities to the fullest; value other's talents and abilities
3. Cultivate the ability to inspire, motivate, and draw out the best in others.
4. Communicate and work as a team in a multicultural and interdependent world.
5. Show initiative and entrepreneurialism.

Unit 8 Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw-- 10 days

In this section, the students will

1. Demonstrate healthy ways to express needs, wants and feelings
2. Develop strong intrapersonal skills; self-reliance, self-confidence, and self discipline.
3. Demonstrate characteristics of a responsible friend and family member

4. Recognize relationships between person behavior and individual well-being
 5. Strive to be healthy for life.
- Exams dates will be posted at a later date.

Key learning objectives:

Students will:

1. Actively set goals and monitor progress
2. Learn and practice organizational strategies
3. Practice self-reflection
4. Learn and practice metacognitive learning skills
5. Practice learning strategies
6. Identify personal ways to communicate and seek help for personal success

Key learning strategy:

Students will:

1. Use a planner or Google Calendar
2. Use of binder system
3. Growth Mindset based goal setting
4. Financial Literacy

Course Material:

Pen/pencil
Notebook paper
3 ring binder
Charged
Chromebook

Course Reading:

This course utilizes the text, [The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#) by Steven Covey. We also incorporate a variety of articles as primers for class discussion and learning. All articles will be linked through Google Classroom as they are used in class.

Participation: Students are expected to participate when in class and complete assignments on time.

Evaluation methods: Tests, Quizzes, Projects, Group projects, Class participation, and classwork.

Late work: 10 points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Max points will be 50 points. The student may turn in the assignment anytime until the end of the unit for a 50. There will be options where students will work with me **individually** if needed to overcome grades that are not passing.

Absence Policy: If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to get any missing material from Google Classroom, another student, or your teacher. You can only miss 5 unexcused absences for this class.

Class Rules:

Be Prompt

Be Prepared

Be Polite

Be Positive

Consequences: If students do not abide by the school cell phone/Airpod/headphone policy, students will be given a detention for the 1st offense and after that, each incident is a teacher referral to the student's administrator.

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