

1/3 of the credits needed for graduation). Furthermore, the Success Academy focuses on literacy, as well as skills needed to be successful in high school by offering courses unique to the concept, Strategic Reading/ Literacy Workshop and Success 101. In the Success Academy, students take Strategic Reading, Literacy Workshop, or both depending on the student's needs, in addition to the traditional Freshman English course. The Strategic Reading course focuses on reading and comprehending of different kinds of texts, writing clearly, and listening effectively, all of which are core skills that students need in order to succeed in high school and life. Literacy workshop is a systematic program that utilizes computer assessment to measure student reading levels and progress. Students in the Success Academy also take Success 101. This course focuses on the knowledge that students need to make good choices during high school. The class covers credits & high school requirements, study skills, social skills, life skills (goal setting, decision-making, effective communication), college and postsecondary options, and career interests. Finally, the Success Academy also meets the needs of high achieving students by offering the option of honors courses and high level math classes.

**Success Academy:
Where Failure is not An
Option.**

The class schedule for a student in the Success Academy may be similar to the following:

Ninth Grade Schedule in The Academy

First Semester

**Honors Algebra or
Algebra I/Elective or
Algebra A**

Success 101

**Honors Strat. Reading
Strategic Reading
Literacy Workshop**

**Honors Biology/Elective
Biology /Elective**

Second Semester

**Honors Geometry
Algebra I/Elective
Algebra B**

**Honors World History
World History**

**Honors Fresh English
Freshman English**

**Hon. Biology/Elective
Biology/Elective**

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Building a Bridge to Success

Ninth grade is often a difficult transition period for adolescents. As they face the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual



Academy Concept: Bridging the transition from middle to high school.

challenges of this stage of their development, it is easy for them to feel

overwhelmed, confused, and alone. Most students who drop-out of high school actually make that fateful decision in their first year of high school. In fact, in a typical urban high school, the graduating class is often only one-third as large as the number of students entering as Freshmen. The goal of the Highlander Success Academy at Highland Park High School is to ease the transition to high school by keeping the ninth grade from being a failure experience for students. The faculty and staff work toward enabling students to cross the threshold into high school and continue on, better prepared academically and socially for the rigors of high school and college.

School-Within-A-School

The Highlander Success Academy is a unique teaching and learning community where adults are committed to the

based on the principle that all students can learn and create bright futures for themselves. One of the most important features of the Success Academy is its status as a school-within-a-school. The program is self-contained, with its own administrative and teaching staff, its own entrance, walls and doors that physically separate it from the rest of the high school. Ninth graders spend most of their class time in the Success Academy, passing through other parts of the building only to attend electives, or as escorted groups to the lunchroom, the gym, or the auditorium. This type of setting creates a smaller, focused, more intimate educational environment better equipped to meet the needs of individual students, and of ninth graders in general.

Interdisciplinary Teams

One of the objectives of the Success Academy is to provide a supportive environment where students receive as much individual



Teachers work on teams with the same group of students.

attention as possible. This is achieved partly by dividing the academy into smaller interdisciplinary teams of teachers who share the same block schedule. The interdisciplinary teams are made up of three teachers— a math, language arts, and social studies teacher who share the same group of students and a common planning

period. This schedule gives the teacher team time to work together and time for more instructional flexibility. The common



plan time is used once a week to focus on discussions of individual student problems and solutions.

Focus is on individual student problems and solutions. Dress code encourages camaraderie

Dress Code

Students in the Success Academy follow a dress code that consists of khaki pants, shorts, or skirts, and green or white tops. The dress code accomplishes two objectives. First, it encourages a sense of cohesiveness and camaraderie among the students, leaving behind the concept of clothing as a status symbol or a display of group/click membership. Second, the dress code allows for freshmen to be easily identified by faculty and staff, which encourages students to make good choices and decisions throughout their school day.

Schedule & Curriculum

Students in the Success Academy take four academic classes and one elective. This schedule decreases the number of classes that Freshmen have to handle at one time. In addition, due to the fact that math, language arts, and social studies classes meet for 90 minutes each day, students receive a year's worth of curriculum in one semester, allowing them to still earn a total of 7 units of credit over the course of the year (almost