



ACADEMY PARENT NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 2016

Dear Academy Parents and Students,

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences start this week on Thursday, 10/13, and next Tuesday, 10/18, from 3:30 - 7:30 PM. Stop by and meet with teachers about student progress so far this semester. If you are unable to attend at these times, please email teachers with your questions or to request a phone call.

ACADEMY T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

At Conferences we'll be selling Academy T-shirts for \$15-- exact change or checks are appreciated. We are also developing new designs for sweatshirts and hoodies to be available for sale later in the semester.

ACADEMY AFTER HOURS

Academy After Hours program for any Academy student, from 2:30 to 4:30 on most Tuesday nights. Attached is a flyer describing the program design to build relationships among students and staff, celebrate the achievement that comes with succeeding at challenging work, and improve study skills. All Academy students are welcome to stay on Tuesday nights if they have afternoon classes. We cannot get buses to return morning students back at the end of the day; but if they can find a ride, they are welcome. There will be 3 DMPS shuttle buses that will leave Academy at 4:30 and stop at middle and high schools on the south side, the north east side, and the north west side of Des Moines.

NO ACADEMY AFTER HOURS ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 18 due to conferences.

CENTRAL ACADEMY PARENT FACEBOOK PAGE

If you use Facebook, join our Central Academy Parent Facebook page to get connected to other Academy parents.

STUDENT SURVEY

One of our goals at Central Academy is creating a learning environment that is both challenging and encouraging. The Academy Connection Survey will help us measure the quality of the learning environment from the students' perspective. It is designed to measure student confidence and connection to the people and classes at Academy.

Students log into their Infinite Campus account to take the 25 question, 10 minute survey. All data are collected, aggregated, and analyzed by Dr. Gogerty, Director of Central Academy. All data are confidential and only compiled results will be shared (individual name will be removed from the data set).

We'll repeat the survey in the spring and compare results to see what effect our improvement plan is having on the student experience.



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MAP TESTING

Fall MAP testing has been completed. The MAP test is given to 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students to measure their achievement in mathematics and reading. Unlike the Iowa Assessments, which are timed and leveled tests (8th graders take a test designed for 8th grade knowledge), the MAP test is untimed and uses a continuous scale so we can get a clearer picture of achievement especially for students who are 'out of level' (8th graders who are taking high school courses, for example).

This is the first time we have given the MAP test in DMPS. First round of testing took a long time for Academy students to complete as the online test "found" individual students' levels. We expect the second round of testing will go more quickly this winter because MAP will remember the students' previous levels.

Students in grades 7 - 9 will take the MAP test 3 times this year: fall, winter, and spring. Since the fall results are establishing a baseline, the results will not be available until after winter testing is complete. English and Mathematics teachers can share your child's fall MAP score; however, without the context of the winter score to compare it to, the meaning is difficult to interpret.

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Check out pictures from Academy events at https://www.flickr.com/photos/dmps_academy.