

MAPS Class

Methods for Academic
and Personal Success

Course Description

With an emphasis on relationship skills and personal achievement, this course is designed to empower students by focusing on the skills and strategies needed to make successful transitions - into high school, post high school, career, and beyond. Based on the *CASEL model, the primary objective is to increase each student's confidence in self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.

Focus is on academic organization, attitude, character education, goal setting, leadership, positive student strategies, proactive behavior including mindfulness, self-understanding, and time management.

Emphasis is placed on collaborative learning, critical reading/writing skills and techniques for student engagement. Together the focus and emphasis will strongly lead in and support the CAA Core Values.

Objectives

- Students will demonstrate note taking, positive organization and study skills.
- Students will learn characteristics of personal success such as attitude, communication, decision making, goal setting, growth mindset, and teamwork.
- Students will work collaboratively while learning a significant amount about themselves/others.
- Students will learn responsible and useful ways to use technology (including smart phones.)
- Teachers will support students' academic work in all classes through conferencing and grade monitoring.

Evaluation and Grading Policy

This class is not Pass/Fail. All assignments are weighted the same and averaged for a final score. Late work will always be accepted for partial credit (all assignments must be eventually completed). Points are awarded for content/accuracy, creativity, grammar, neatness, and punctuality. Notebook/Planner checks will be every day for first quarter, then every Wed or Thurs the rest of the year.

Learning activities included in evaluation are:

- Article Reviews
- Notebooks/Binders
- Oral Presentations
- Participation
- Peer Edits
- Projects
- Quizzes/Exams
- Written work

Extra TIPS!

- Be on time
- Bring all supplies
- Cell phones rest in the off position in the *Kodiak Cell Phone Spa* during class
- Complete your work
- Participate in activities
- Support positive learning environment (Golden Rule/Social Contract)

Note:

This course is designed to be a fun and engaging way to help freshman transition into high school and build powerful success skills for life. We may have professional observers and guests visit us as this is a new program. As we begin, the goal is to continually refine the course so that it may best serve our students at CAA. To find out more about Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and MAPS, google these items:



- ✓ Social and Emotional Learning
- ✓ Methods for Academic and Personal Success
- ✓ CASEL
- ✓ "School Connect - Optimizing the High School Experience"
- ✓ There is a documentary on the class available on Vimeo - search for "Methods for Academic and Personal Success"