

# Study Skills Curriculum 2015-2016

Mr. John W. Cronin

Mr. Jonathan E. Daniels

Mr. Michael Zagari

# Why Study Skills?

- Study Skills are practices, strategies, and techniques for ALL aspects of learning
- These skills are for the students to apply in all their subjects
- When students know how to tap into their learning strengths, their academic growth will increase
- This year we will devote some substantial time to speech and debate whereby students engage in higher order thinking and active learning is promoted

# Topics To Be Covered

- There will be nine (9) topics covered this year
- Each topic has been carefully considered for its importance and allotted an approximate number of school days that will be devoted to that particular study
- Time has been built in for the students to participate in worthwhile contests, most notably, the PTA's ***Reflections*** Contest, State Senator Kemp Hannon's ***There Ought To Be A Law***, and the Garden City Bird Sanctuary's ***Environmental Essay Contest***

# Daily Planner

- After a one day introduction to the class, the students will be introduced to one of their best “organizational friends”—the daily planner
- Students will learn to manage study time and prepare a schedule
- Hands-on preparation of sample daily, weekly, and monthly schedules
- Time on topic: approx. 2 days

# Multiple Intelligences and Learning Styles

- Students will take written and online Learning Styles Inventories to determine if they are primarily auditory, visual, or kinesthetic learners
- Concrete examples of how to apply the student's dominant learning style to their study habits will be given
- Review of Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences with applicable ways that someone from each of the eight (8) intelligences could complete projects and assignments
- Time on topic: approx. 8 days

# Goal Setting

- It is important for students to be able to set and keep realistic academic goals and they will be shown how to do this while gaining an understanding that goal setting is an invaluable tool for doing well in school
- Relationship between motivation and goals is explored as well as how to fight procrastination
- How to deal with setbacks and move on with confidence
- Time on topic: approx. 2 days

# Organizational Skills

- How to use study groups (pros and cons)
- The Cornell Note Taking Method will be demonstrated and taught
- How to organize “homework space” for the most efficacious use of time and supplies
- How to follow rubrics
- Best use of computers/technology/library
- Time on topic: approx. 10 days

# Test Anxiety

- Understanding academic stress
- Anxiety-busting mind games will be taught
- How to cope with stress
- Test preparation methods to lessen anxiety
- How procrastination increases anxiety and better time management techniques to avoid it
- Time on topic: approx. 6 days



# Homework

- The benefits of a consistent homework routine will be examined
- Five pre-learning strategies for improving HW efficiency will be taught
- How to design a meaningful “To-do-list” that will actually get done
- Time on topic: approx. 2 days

# Basic Logic

- Students will understand the nine (9) rules of logic
- The key to critical thinking—weighing the reasons people give for the conclusions they want us to believe
- How to create a *valid, sound* argument and recognize some common fallacies.
- Time on topic: approx. 5 days

# Speech and Debate

- This topic is very important. It aligns with the CCLS and teaches invaluable skills:
- Promotes critical thinking
- Makes students active learners
- Boosts self-esteem
- Helps overcome the most common fear; public speaking
- Demands proper use of language
- Allows students to critically evaluate arguments and to be more sensitive to opposing viewpoints while being able to defend their own point of view
- Prepares for careers in law, business, sales, politics, etc.

# Speech and Debate (continued)

- Verbal and non-verbal communication skills will be taught
- Students will give an oral speech on a topic of their choice
- Introduction to debate
- How to make arguments/refutations
- Research skills involving use of library and computers
- Students get to work as a team in an area of academic interest
- Debate competition
- Time on topic: approx. 39 days

# Test Taking Strategies

- Overview of strategies for all test types (multiple choice, essay, short answer, true/false, matching columns)
- Memorization techniques such as mnemonics and flashcards will be taught
- How to pace yourself during a test
- Revisiting calming nerves before and during a test
- Time on topic: approx. 11 days