



April 16, 2018

Dear Hamilton Families,

As we approach the end of testing and looking towards a successful conclusion to our school year, I am writing to emphasize my expectations of all scholars. I am also reaching out for your support in emphasizing our expectations and goals.

1. **On Track Celebrations at the End of the Year:** We are looking forward to rewarding our scholars who have reached “on-track status.” In order to participate in the end of year “on-track” celebrations, students must have met the minimum requirements. The minimum requirements are a 2.5GPA, 95% attendance, and good behavior.
2. **Behavior:** We must all work very hard to remain focused at the end of our year. Springtime can be a particularly challenging time for middle school students to remain academically focused and continuing to make good choices with their behavior. It is also an opportune time for us to support our students together in reaching the success we have all worked hard to see at the end of our school year.
  - a. **On-time to class:** All scholars must be in their seats by the start of class. Teachers give a visual warning with a yellow sign, which gives scholars 2 minutes to get inside of their classroom and ready for class. Further, all scholars must have a signed hallway pass whenever they are in the hallway during class. Please know that we will be doing hallway checks to monitor passes and on-time status. Any student found in the hallways during class time without a valid pass will be assigned detention.
  - b. **Solving conflicts peacefully:** We have been talking in community meetings and in groups about the importance of talking to adults in the building for support with peer conflicts. We have a full team of counselors and social workers, in addition to scholar advisers, who are on duty to support our students. We use restorative practices, which are research-based ways to help middle school students solve conflicts without using violence. However, students who fight or encourage fighting will be strictly held to the DPS Discipline Code of Conduct. Specifically, students may be sent to an expulsion hearing for placement at an alternative learning center and will definitely be disqualified from attending celebration field trips. Note that *this includes any student encouraging a fight or found posting fights on social media*. Please emphasize the importance of students coming to staff to allow us to help them solve their conflicts or end bullying they may be experiencing in productive and safe ways.
  - c. **Following staff instructions:** All staff directives (ie, stop running) must be followed the first time. This includes directives from staff who might not be your child’s teacher, such as a secretary or another teacher. This is a safety measure, and a non-negotiable. Any student found to be violating a staff directive or not following instructions will be held accountable, including after-school detention.

Families, I thank you for your partnership as we firmly and fairly emphasize our expectations as a school community. We want our scholars to have a safe and educationally-focused conclusion to our school year. We have all been working hard to help our middle school scholars have a productive school year, and we want each of our Huskies to reach the finish line successfully!

Respectfully,

Christian Sawyer, Ed.D. Principal