

WELCOME TO LIFE CONNECTIONS! PARENT NEWSLETTER



Arizona College Prep Erie Campus

July 2018

Welcome to Life Connections!

The objective of this class is to give your student the tools and foundations necessary to be an excellent and successful student in life. We will learn about organization, time management, study habits, computer skills, learning styles and strategies. As we learn about these topics, your student will be learning more about themselves

How do you learn best? What is the most effective way for you to prioritize your schedule? How do you interpret teachers' expectations? By answering these questions for yourself you will begin to fill your toolbox with the equipment necessary for successful life long learning. In Life Connections, we will foster an environment of respect to each other. We will learn and succeed not just individually but corporately. We share ideas, suggestions and tools that work for us, with others so that they will be successful too. We push forward together with care and integrity. As with any course, tools will be given to you, but it is up to you to practice and use them, building your success one step at a time.

Required Materials

Please acquire the following materials as soon as possible:

1. **Binder (used in all classes)**
2. **Different colored folder (used in all classes)**
3. **Dividers (used in all classes)**
4. **Paper- Spiral notebook are loose leaf paper is fine**
5. **Pen, pencil, highlighter**
6. **Flash Drive- Keep in mind this can be shared between all classes.**
7. **Personal Planner**
8. **Personal copy of 7 Habits for the Highly Effective Teen by Sean Covey - This is not required but STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.**

We keep moving
forward,
opening new doors
&
doing new things,
because we're
curious
&
curiosity
keeps leading us
down new paths.

Walt Disney

Where to find the 7 Habits book...

- Barnes and Noble
- Amazon
- Target
- Wal- Mart
- Local Bookstore

Technology Use



Technology will be integrated throughout the majority of this class. In order for your student to be successful they will need regular access to the following:

- A desktop computer, laptop, or tablet with an internet connection
- Email
- Cell Phone

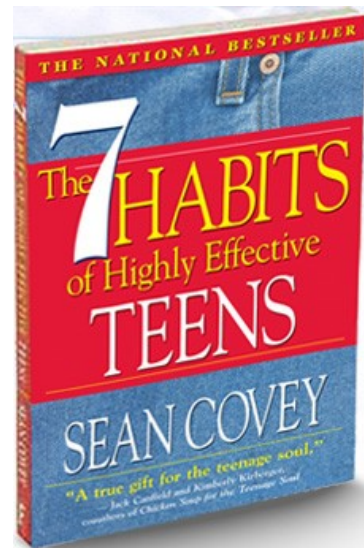
Your student will be expected to adhere to the CUSD Technology Agreement set up by Chandler Unified School District. Please find and read that document under Parent Resources on the ACP website. As the teacher I will have the ultimate decision in when technology use is appropriate or not.

Communication

Communication with both you and your student will take place in a number of ways including phone calls, emails, E-blasts, text message reminders and blog posts (on my website). **Please be sure that you have signed up for a Schoolwires account AND subscribed to each teachers website.**

Student Objectives

Here is an outline of the topics we will be covering in Life Connections. Please note that all content is subject to change as learning and mastery may occur at a different rate than a schedule.



- **Rules and Classroom Procedures; Academic Self Assessment- a personal look at current habits**
 - **Organization, as related to classes, teachers, and personally as well as Time Management**
 - **Study Strategies and Learning Styles. These two topics will be taught to compliment each other**
 - **Examining specific strategies learning strategies such as kinesthetic, logic memory, mnemonics , aural, computer aids, etc.**
 - **Basic Computer Skills i.e. email etiquette, Word, PowerPoint, shortcuts**
- 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens which includes:**
1. **Being Proactive**
 2. **Begin with the End in Mind (Goal Setting)**
 3. **Put First Things First (Prioritizing)**
 4. **Think Win- Win (Personal Mindset)**
 5. **Seek First to Understand then Be Understood (Communication)**
 6. **Synergize (Team Work)**
 7. **Sharpening the Saw (Taking Care of Yourself)**

Academic Expectations and Policies

1. Each student is responsible for his or her own work.
2. All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted. Papers and projects, longer assignments may be turned in one-day late for a 15% reduction of credit. Late work beyond one day will not be accepted. Some circumstances may be dealt with in a different manner at the teacher's discretion. I consider work to be late if it is not turned in when I call for it in class, ***even if it is turned in the same day***. Work is considered on time if it is ready the moment it is called for.
3. Do your best work. Make sure to follow all expectations and guidelines that are given to you.
4. If you are sick or out of school, it is **your** responsibility to collect or turn in your assignment and schedule time to make up any assessments you missed. You will find any information you need on the daily blog.
5. In addition, I will enforce all school policies. Please see the Student Handbook for any other school policies, procedures, and expectations.

"If you take responsibility for yourself you will develop a hunger to accomplish your dreams."

-Les Brown

Classroom Expectations

Your student is expected to be on time, bring all necessary materials to class, participate ***positively*** in all activities, ask questions when necessary, work to his/her potential, get missing assignments, complete all given tasks in a timely and efficient manner, and obey all school rules as explained in the Arizona College Prep Family Handbook. When questions arise, **it is his/her responsibility** to communicate with the teacher.

In order to be successful in this class your student must participate at every opportunity that is possible. Classroom activities will not only help your student practice concepts we are learning but will also give your student important life skills that will help in other classes as well.



Contact Info

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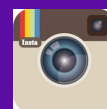
Visit me on the web at
www.cusd80.com/Page/95544

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Check us out on social media!



What is Infinite Campus?

It is a log-on website “Portal” where you, the student or parent, can access grades and class attendance. This will help increase communication with teachers.

What do you need to do to start using the Infinite Campus(IC) Student Portal?

You will need to activate your account. You can log-on anywhere you have Internet access (at home, in a school, or through your Smartphone). The activation is easy, but specific directions need to be followed.

How to access:

1. Go to the Chandler Unified School District Homepage:
2. <http://www.cusd80.com/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>
3. Click on the Parents & Students Tab
4. Choose Parent & Student Portal-Online Grades

OR

1. Many parents and students access the Infinite Campus Student Portal through a smart phone app.
2. Download the Infinite Campus Mobile Portal application from any app store.
3. The access code is **GBBGMT. (ALL CAPS)**

* Parents should have their own portal set up as should students.*

How can I help my student be successful at Arizona College Prep?

1. **Help them to be organized!** - This year all school classes are using the same binder and a folder system to help with class/ backpack organization. Set up some kind of organization system and routine at home so your student always knows where things go.
2. **Look at teacher websites-** There are many resources you can find on teacher websites including daily blogs, assignment description, classroom calendar, and content specific resources.
3. **Check your student’s planner and monthly calendars-** This can help to keep your student accountable for any homework or projects they have coming up. This also gives you the opportunity to help your student with Time Management.
4. **Check Infinite Campus–** Hold your student accountable for assignments and grades.
5. **Encourage communication–** Let the student work out communication first and if necessary help them.
6. **Ask your student to explain–** When your student is studying a concept, ask them to explain it to you. It will help them to master what they are learning as well as give you an idea of what’s going on in class.
7. **HOLD YOUR STUDENT TO EXPECTATIONS-** Each teacher has set out expectations as well as the school and it will be more beneficial to meet those expectations than to make excuses for them. This is also a valuable life lesson!