

Freshman Academy – Course Syllabus

Course Description:

The Freshman Academy is a new program designed to help freshman students make an easier and more successful transition from middle school into high school. The Academy is designed to equip 9th graders with the social, academic, and organizational skills necessary to make a positive start to high school and to provide a solid foundation for their future academic success.

Staff:

Freshman Academy teachers have been selected because of their experience and expertise in meeting the unique needs of freshman students. Academy students' schedules have been designed so that they share the same English, Next Tools, and Math/Science teacher.

Contact Information:

Corey Russell (Science): corey.russell@vansd.org
Nancy Warner (Next Tools): nancy.warner@vansd.org
Michael Drescher (English 9): michael.drescher@vansd.org

Ben Jatos (English 9): ben.jatos@vansd.org
James Ensley (Math): james.ensley@vansd.org
Phone (all teachers): 360-313-4000

Areas of Focus:

1. Study Skills
2. Teamwork/Collaboration
3. Goal setting/Grade monitoring
4. Organizational techniques
5. Applying reading strategies
6. Research skills
7. Career Skills/Resume building

Academy Schedule:

Morning Group:

Periods 1&2: English/Math (Drescher/Ensley)

Period 3: 21st Century Literacy/Next Tools

Afternoon Group:

Periods 4&5: English/Science (Jatos/Russell)

Period 6: 21st Century Literacy/Next Tools

Grading:

This class will use 'Standards-Based Grading' for major tests and assessments. All assignments will use the 4-Point Grading System (see below) with the following point break down. Late work will be accepted with a penalty at the teacher's discretion.

The 4-Point Grading System:

- 4 - Above & Beyond (student exceeds expectations)
- 3 - Good (student meets standard)
- 2 - Almost (revision/re-testing needed)
- 1 - Needs Work (student needs to re-learn the material)

Grading Scale:

A (100% - 92%)	C+ (69.99% - 63%)
A- (91.99% - 85%)	C (62.99% - 56%)
B+ (84.99% - 80%)	C- (55.99% - 50%)
B (79.99% - 75%)	F (49.99% or lower)

Assessment Categories:

- *Assessment of Standards* - 80% of total grade
- *Daily Work* - 20% of total grade

Teacher Web Pages:

More information about the Freshman Academy can be found on the Fort Vancouver High School web page (look beneath 'Department Pages' on the left-hand side). In addition, every Academy teacher has their own personal web page where you can find updated information, weekly calendars, assignments, and other materials.

- Go to <http://fort.vansd.org/Staff.htm>
- Click on the teacher's name

Please sign and detach

Signed by parent _____ and student _____

Please return to an Academy teacher by Monday, September 9th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us.