



Student and Parent Expectations

MSA has small class sizes but is also a rigorous, college-prep school. To facilitate this goal, MSA expects the following from its students and parents:

Students are expected to:

- **be challenged on a daily basis.** Students should be committed to moving through materials at a demanding rate and have the ability to advocate for themselves as needed. Students will need to be able to manage their time wisely and be committed to spending a lot of time on their school work, both during school and out of school.
- **complete their assignments daily.** Expected amount of **daily** homework for:
 - 6th graders is about 1-2 hours.
 - 7th and 8th graders is about 1.5-2 hours.
 - 9th and 10th graders is about 2-3 hours.
 - 11th and 12th graders is about 3-4 hours.
 - AP students is about 45–60 minutes for each AP class.
 - Summer Work: All students have summer math packets that must be completed. Additionally, AP classes have summer work, as well.
- **write assignments in their planners.** Teachers often instruct students at the beginning of every class to write assignments in their planners.
- **be prepared for tests.** Students usually know about major tests 1-2 weeks before the test and need to make sure they study every night for at least 10-15 minutes until the night before the test, when they should study for a longer period of time.
- **problem solve when having trouble with homework.** Students should try this progression of steps:
 - looking at their notes.
 - looking at the class website.
 - calling a friend.
 - calling/emailing the teacher in a timely manner.
 - checking in with the teacher during teacher office hours (before or after school).
- **manage their part in group projects.** When completing group projects, students are expected to use in-class time wisely, communicate with their project partners outside of class (phone, email, messaging, etc.), and communicate any problems or concerns promptly with the teacher.

- **pace themselves when working on projects.** Teachers usually chunk larger projects into smaller pieces, and students need to stay on top of those smaller pieces so they are not overwhelmed by the final due date.
- **to prioritize school work over extra-curricular activities.** Schoolwork should come first. Students are expected to complete their assignments, even if they have many activities in one evening.
- **turn in work on time.** In middle school, late work receives a 50% grade reduction. In some high school classes, late work receives no credit.
- **be respectful to others.** They must take responsibility for their actions, their community, and to follow the MSA Handbook.

Student Signature

Date

Parents are expected to...

- **be aware of the academic challenges at MSA.** If your student struggles with school, you will be expected to help your student with study skills and organization.
- **read the school announcements daily.**
- **provide a quiet study space at home,** without TV, phones, or other electronics to distract students during homework completion.
- **read their student's planner daily and help their student create a daily schedule** to get all of their homework completed. Many students need help to prioritize their homework, and parents should reinforce the idea that there is daily work, that tests must be studied for, and that larger projects need to be completed in a timely manner. That can be a lot for younger students to understand, and they may need reminders to reinforce the message at home.
- **provide the resources to help students complete their assignments** but not to do the work for the students. This includes picking up a computer and turning all forms in before the first day of school.
- **help students balance their activities with their schoolwork** by not allowing students to be over-scheduled. Schoolwork should come first. Students are expected to complete their assignments, even if they have many activities in one evening.
- **check Skyward and class websites as necessary and contact teachers** if you have questions. Parents may set up Skyward notifications if a student earns a grade below a certain level.
- **volunteer at MSA** in whatever ways are possible.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date