

MS 101

Middle School Student Services

Lissette Robles, Luisa “Nathy” Mendez, Rachel Pappas

Who are your Counselors

- Ms. Lissette Robles, M.S. – 6th Grade Counselor, Student Services Co – Chair, Naviance/Family Connection Program Coordinator
- Ms. Luisa “Nathy” Mendez, M.S. – 7th Grade Counselor
- Ms. Rachel Pappas, M.S. – 8th Grade Counselor, Gifted Counselor

The Role of the School Counselor

- Academic Advisement
 - Grade review during progress reports and at the end of each quarter
 - Help students with selection of courses for the following school year
 - Naviance/Family Connection Presentation
 - Organizational skills
 - Study skills

The Role of the School Counselor Continued

- Social issues, we assist with students who have:
 - Trouble making friends
 - Trouble adjusting to school culture
 - Bullying (cyber, verbal, or physical)
 - Zero Tolerance Policy

The Role of the School Counselor Continued

- Emotional
 - We provide resources for parents when there is a persisting issue/situation
 - We are here to provide support for your child during a tough time
 - A shoulder to cry on
 - An ear to listen
 - Give advice on a particular situation
 - We are not therapists

How do they get promoted to high school?

- Students must have passed all their core curriculum classes each school year (Florida Statue 1003.4156)
 - This includes high school credit courses
- Students must have at least 3 years of a physical education (Florida Statue Section 1003.455)
- Students must have a College and Career Planning Course

Summary of Promotion and Placement Requirements for Middle Grades Students

End of Grade	Courses Passed	Status
6	All Courses Passed	Promoted to Grade 7 Regular 7 th Grade Student
6	4-5 Courses Passed Must pass language arts* or mathematics and at least 3 other courses	Promoted to Grade 7 Placed in grade 7 and scheduled to repeat courses not passed, as appropriate.
6	Less than 4 Courses Passed in Grade 6	Retained in Grade 6
7	12 Cumulative Courses Passed 6 courses passed in grade 6 and 6 courses passed in grade 7	Promoted to Grade 8 Regular 8 th grade student
7	8-12 Cumulative Courses Passed 4 courses passed in grade 6 including language arts*, mathematics, science, and social science. 4-5 courses passed in grade 7 including 7 th grade language arts* or mathematics, science or social science, and/or a course which incorporates career and education planning.	Promoted to Grade 8 Placed in grade 8 and scheduled to repeat courses not passed, as appropriate.
7	7-8 Cumulative Courses Passed	Retained in Grade 7
8	15-18 Cumulative Courses Passed Must pass 3 courses each in language arts*, mathematics, science, and social science, including a course which incorporates career and education planning and 3 additional courses. The student must also have completed his/her personalized academic and career plan.	Promoted to Grade 9
8	14 or Fewer Courses Passed	Retained in Grade 8

* M/J Language Arts Through ESOL as appropriate

College Readiness: Naviance/Family Connection

- Doral's Mission and Vision: All are students are College Bound
- Naviance/Family connection is a fully integrated platform designed to help raise student accountability and performance across a number of key indicators leading to increased engagement, improvements in academic performance and overall workplace and college readiness.
- Students using the Naviance/Family Connection Platform will receive invaluable information regarding their learning styles, career cluster choices (based on their interests), and personality and career inventories.

Naviance/Family Connection in Middle School

- Grade 6 students will create accounts through their reading class and will complete the 6th grade Naviance/Family connection curriculum in the classroom.
- Grades 7th – 8th will receive Naviance/Family connection curriculum and assignments through their college and career readiness course (which is the class that wheels with P.E.)
- Students have a specific curriculum that is tailored to each grade level and they will have specific tasks that must be completed prior to 8th grade promotion.
- Students who are not in P.E. still receive Naviance/Family Connection logins and tasks to complete.
 - These tasks are assigned in the second semester for a grade through dance.
- All students must create *professional* Gmail accounts to use with Naviance/Family connection
 - Example: Lrobles@gmail.com

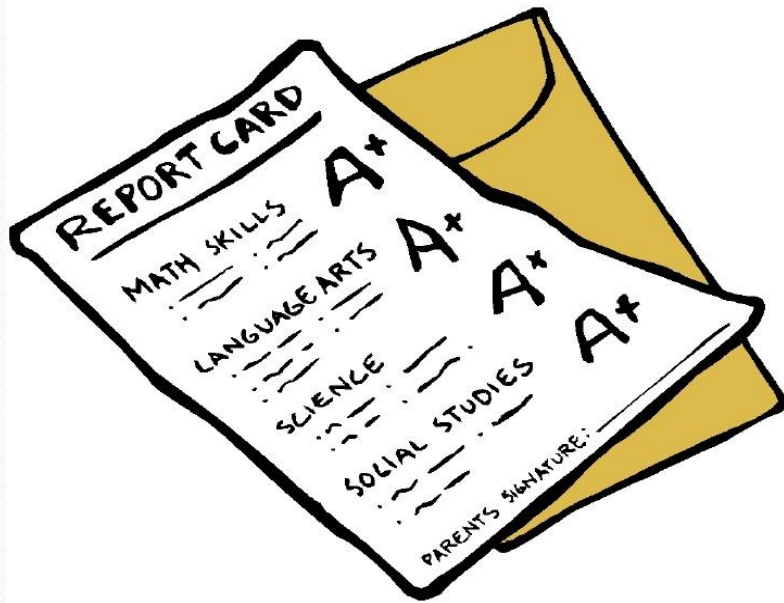
High School Credits and GPA

- Middle School students have the opportunity to take high school credit courses.
 - These classes count towards the students high school GPA
 - If they fail a high school course, this affects there GPA negatively
 - If they fail a high school course, they are missing a middle school credit
- High school courses can not be made up in middle school, students will be asked to retake a middle school course to complete their missing credit.

How GPA Works for High School Credit Courses

Type Of Class	Grade	Unweighted GPA	Weighted GPA	Grade	Unweighted GPA	Weighted GPA
Regular	A	4.0	4.0	B	3.0	3.0
Honors	A	4.0	5.0	B	4.0	5.0
AP/Dual enrollment	A	4.0	6.0	B	4.0	6.0

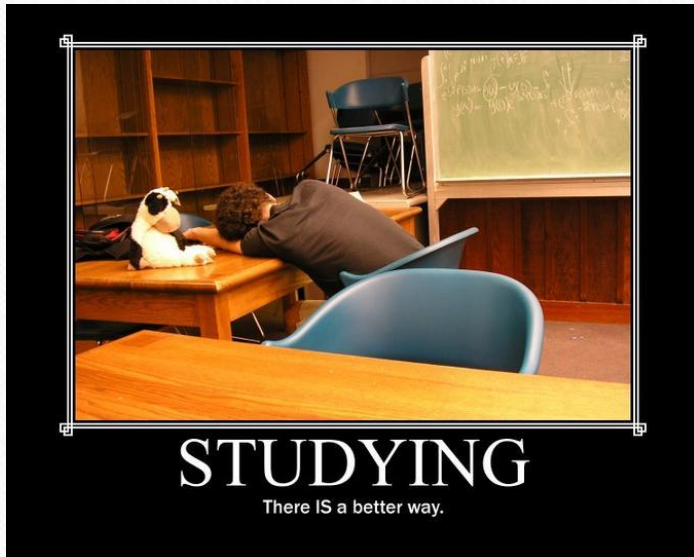
How to Monitor Your Child's Progress



- Parent Portal
 - Log in to Dadeschools.net and sign up for weekly e-mail notifications
 - Download the phone app
- E-mail Teachers/Counselor
- Set-Up Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays at 2:30 and 3:30
- Keep informed using our many forms of communication
 - Doral Academy Prep Website
 - Doral Academy Facebook Page
 - Doral Academy Twitter Account
- Listen to our Connect EDU's when we call
- Sign up for Homework Notifications on our school website (not all teachers post online)
- Check for Progress Report and Report Cards
- Weekly Progress Reports

How to Help Your Child be Successful

It starts at home!



- Help them get organized
 - Visual daily task boards (dry/erase board)
 - Organize binders once a week
 - Buy a school agenda/planner
- Get them to bed early
- Have them study on a desk or dining table (something that mimics school conditions)
 - Research has shown that students are more likely to retain information for an exam if they study the same way they are going to take their test.
- Reward and praise your child for doing well
- Bring them to school on time and everyday
- Get them tutoring if they are struggling
- Allow them to be kids!

Attendance

- Students should be in school everyday!
 - Unexcused tardies result in your child being sent to lockout, and it will be an unexcused absence for the day
 - Your child will not be allowed to make up the work for that period.
 - Up to 10 absences can be *excused* from a note from home, after 10 students *must* have a doctor's note
 - If your child has an excessive amount of absences, a truancy warning will be issued and you will need to come in and meet with your child's counselor and administrator

Grading

- Grading policies differ from school to school and within departments
- Some Elementary schools don't use weight on their categories, we do
- Math and Science grade on a percentage scale
- All other grades are on a 4.0 scale
- Biggest weight in all our categories are **tests** and **quizzes**, students must show mastery of the material

Tutoring at Doral Academy

- Math Tutoring

- Available 4 days a week

- Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:40 p.m. – 5:00 p.m in room 215B
- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m. in room 204A

- Reading Labs

- Available 2 days a week

- Mondays and Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in Rooms 117B and 206B
- Mondays and Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:00 in Room 206A

Schedule Changes

- Schedule changes are only done in the first two weeks of school
 - Students must put in a schedule change request the first week!
- We will **NOT** be changing any schedules for the remainder of the school year.
- Please keep in mind that if a student chooses a course on their subject selection and then wants decides not to take the course, the class **WILL NOT** be changed.

Transitioning

6th grade Transitions

- Grades tend to drop the first quarter
- Students have to adjust to seeing multiple teachers
- Students must adjust to moving from building to building
- Hormonal changes
- It's all about making friends

8th grade Transition

- Becoming more independent
- Classes are more rigorous
- Thinking more critically
- Grades may drop (almost like a senioritis in 8th grade)
- Social status is extremely important to them

Contact Us

E-mails:

- Ms. Robles –
Lrobles@doralacademyprep.org
- Ms. Mendez –
Lmendez@doralacademyprep.org
- Ms. Pappas –
Rpappas@doralacademyprep.org

Office Hours

- We are here Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- Please allow us 24 – 48 hours to respond to messages or e-mails.
- Students are our number 1 priority. Therefore, if you come without an appointment, you may have to wait.