

HALE STUDENT LEADERSHIP



COURSE OUTLINE

Welcome to Leadership and an exciting year! This course is an important part of the overall leadership development program for students at Hale Middle School. The course contains an introduction to leadership principles and applications in which students will examine different concepts of leadership styles and traits. Throughout the school year, students will be provided with opportunities to determine how effective leadership can move group members to action and self-improvement. In addition, this course will provide students with the critical elements of analysis and reflection of certain core issues in the practice of leadership. These objectives will be achieved through open discussion, honest self-assessment, practical exercises, and observation of real-life leadership practices.

While the students are expected to be responsible, creative, dynamic, enthusiastic, and committed, they will also need to learn and develop the following qualities:

- Communication skills
- Ability to cope with change
- Listening skills
- Teamwork and motivating others
- Ability to resolve conflict
- Establishing personal relationships with members of Leadership, faculty, administration, staff, and the student body
- Setting goals
- Managing time and schedules
- Ability to negotiate and manage meetings and groups

What is valued in this course are honest relationships and dialogue, risk-taking, dedication to the goals of leadership, and initiative.

SUPPLIES

Students should bring to class the supplies that they typically bring to their other classes. (Binder, paper, pens, etc...) Advisors will provide specific direction as to what students need on a daily basis.

8th Graders: 2 rolls of Blue Painter's Tape (2" preferred; any brand)

7th Graders: 2 bottles of Tempera Paint (Last name A – M = warm colors, N – Z cool colors)
(Regular – not washable preferred; any brand)

GRADING POLICY

Students will receive an academic grade and marks in work habits and cooperation for their work in this course. Leadership is not an easy 'A,' study hall period, or social hour. Grades will be earned based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance
2. Completion of assigned tasks
3. Participation in scheduled school events (Orientations, Meetings, Spirit Competitions / Lunch Activities, Dances, Dress-Up Days, Back-to-School Night, Open House, etc . . .)
4. Teacher observations of appropriate behavior and attitude as established by the classroom norms and Hale Middle School.

Students will be awarded points on a weekly basis for the above requirements which will determine their grade in the class. There are always opportunities to earn extra points; Leadership students always go above and beyond the job required and do more than is expected!

NOTIFICATION OF FAILING / UNSATISFACTORY GRADES

Every five weeks, a progress report or a report card will be issued to students. Prior to the end of a grading period, written notification will be sent home whenever the student is in danger of failing/not meeting grade level standards. In no case shall a failing grade be assigned if the parent/guardian has not been notified in advance.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Students who choose to exhibit appropriate behavior will be rewarded; those who choose to disrupt the learning / working environment will be given consequences. Students who choose not to follow the school and classroom standards for behavior will receive the following “Three Strikes” disciplinary action in conjunction with the intervention procedures established by the Dean’s Office:

1. Reprimand (Below the Line Behavior)
2. Probation (Below the Line Behavior – Removal from Leadership activities)
3. Suspension (Bottom Line Behavior - Loss of all Leadership activities)
4. Removal from Leadership

STUDENT CONTRACT

Students and their parents/guardians are required to sign a contract that outlines the student code of conduct. As student leaders, each of the students will be entrusted with responsibilities and will be expected to behave as a positive role model for the entire student body. Every member is expected to follow Hale Middle School’s Leadership **Code of Conduct** and the norms established in the classroom. Failure to adhere to the contract will result in disciplinary actions that may result in the student’s removal from the course.

TIME COMMITMENT

Leadership requires a yearlong commitment in which each student will be required to attend all activities. On occasion, students will be asked to attend meetings during lunch or after school. Additionally, they will be expected to attend events in the evening and, possibly, on weekends. Be prepared to devote a considerable amount of time to the activities Leadership is responsible for. We understand that at times, schedules may conflict. Students need to be responsible and provide in writing in a timely manner an excuse to the advisors. Alternative activities will be substituted so the student will not lose participation points and can still contribute in an effective way.

PARENTS

Leadership parents are essential to the success of the program. Parents must transport students, support students in keeping up their grades, and allow them to take on the added work of being involved in Leadership. At times parents assist the program by making donations in a variety of ways, prizes for homerooms (like 3 dozen donuts on a Friday morning on your way to school), or their time (like manning the BBQ’s at a Leadership event), or monetary donations, which are always tax deductible. We appreciate all the help we can get, especially during these difficult times. We know everyone is not able to give, but on our part, it doesn’t hurt to ask. We appreciate our Leadership parents!

