



FRESHMAN SEMINAR

Mrs. Wakefield, Rm. 121

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MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR GRADE 9



Required Classes

PASS

Personal and Academic Skills for Success (PASS) is a full-year required course for all Freshmen. This course focuses on the skills and strategies necessary for students to be successful in high school and beyond. The primary objective is to increase students' self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills, and decision-making abilities.

Course Topics

- Goal Setting
- Academic Organization
- Positive Student Strategies
- Self-Understanding
- Proactive Behavior
- Time Management
- Attitude
- Character Education
- Leadership

Class Format

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, students will have a period of silent reading, and then will be given a chance to work on assignments for their classes. Students MUST have something to work on quietly!
- Wednesdays will consist of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and school success lessons
- Lancers Excel: Students in Algebra 1 and English 1-2 may be pulled out of PASS to receive support. The student's teacher will stamp their planner letting them know that they need to go to Lancers Excel.

Social & Emotional Learning Core Competencies



Cell Phones in PASS

Cell phones and other electronic devices are a huge distraction for students. In fact, a recent study found that students who had access to their phones (even if phones were not allowed in the class) scored a minimum of a half a letter grade lower on all assessments than their counterparts who did not have access to phones. Even if the student was not the one on the phone, the fact that her neighbor was on his phone was enough of a distraction to cause this effect. Therefore, PASS is a phone-free zone! Students will be asked at the beginning of class to **put** phones and ear buds away. If students need to access the internet for an assignment, they will need to gain permission from their teacher and put the phone away as soon as they are done with it.

make the most of PASS

Freshman teachers use PASS to help students. They send make-up work, missed quizzes and tests, and missing work to the PASS teacher for completion during PASS. The object is to make learning mandatory, not optional!