

Aspen Creek Eighth Grade Team Policies for 2011-12

Welcome to the eighth grade at Aspen Creek! We are excited that you are a part of this great team. In order to ensure a successful year for everyone, we have established some team-wide expectations. In addition, this packet contains specific information from each subject area. Please sign and return the attached page to Mr. Flynn to indicate that you have read these policies.

Attendance

Regular attendance is vitally important! Many activities are participatory in nature and are difficult or impossible to “make up” at home. We sincerely urge parents and students to make every effort to schedule appointments, vacations, social events, etc., during times that do not conflict with school attendance.

Student Planners

All students should have received planners during registration. Students are expected to keep planners with them at all times during their academic classes. Among other things, students will be required to record class activities and assignments in their planners for the entire year. The planner is a vital tool which, if used consistently, can help students stay organized, plan ahead, and keep track of progress. We urge parents to check students’ planners regularly, as they can also be an important communication tool between school and home.

Assignments and Grades

Grades represent each student’s progress toward meeting district and state standards in each subject area. All grades will be calculated using a weighted scale as follows:

50% of the total in each class will be based on summative assessments.

35% of the total in each class will be based on formative assessments.

15% of the total in each class will be based on preparation and practice.

The team’s grading scale will be as follows:

90-100% =	A	(Advanced)
80-89% =	B	(Proficient)
70-79% =	C	(Partially proficient or basic)
69% and below =	U	(Unsatisfactory; did not meet standard)

In addition, the following codes will be used in the Parent Portal grade book for individual assignments:

X = excused (not calculated in grade)

M = assignment missing (can still be made up)*

T = Turned in by not yet graded (to assure students it was received and do not count against a student’s overall grade.)

If a score is left **blank**, it has not yet been recorded yet. Blank scores are *not* the same as “M” grades and do not count against a student’s overall grade.

All work is expected to be completed with sincere effort and handed in on time. Late assignments may be given reduced credit. Students who are absent should check with all teachers to get make-up assignments and should be aware that due dates will be extended on a “two days per day absent” basis. Long-term assignments are due on their assigned date regardless of absence, unless previous arrangements are made with the teacher.

In most cases, students who do not successfully complete an assessment will have the opportunity to make another attempt. This will be done at teacher discretion, after the student has made and implemented a personal improvement plan.

Extra Help for Eighth Graders

Students needing extra help can always schedule a time to meet with individual teachers outside of class. In addition, all eighth grade academic teachers will be available every Monday from 3:30 – 4:15 to provide assistance or just a quiet place to study. We call this time “ZAP” because “zeroes aren’t permitted!” Students who have missing assignments are strongly encouraged to stay for ZAP.

Home – School Communication

The eighth grade team uses BVSD’s “Parent/Student Portal” on-line system as a continuous means of communication regarding student grades and progress. Teachers will update this portal every week, and students and parents are encouraged to check grades often. Students will receive specific information and passwords for this system; problems with the system should be reported to the district using the link found on the web site. Parents will also receive computer-generated notifications via email when students have missing work. Students who do not have access to a computer at home are welcome to print progress reports at school with teacher permission. Teachers may also be reached by phone or e-mail, and every effort will be made to respond in a timely manner. Finally, we encourage regular use of our 8th grade web site at: <http://bvsd.org/schools/aspencreek/academics/8/Pages/default.aspx>.

Personal Responsibility

Eighth graders are expected to follow all school policies (as stated in the student handbook) at all times. This includes the policies for dress code and personal electronic devices, which will be carefully enforced. Students should be on time to all classes with required materials. Each student will be issued a given number of “oops!” passes to use if necessary; these may be used for return trips to lockers or restroom trips during class. These will also be collected from students in the event of tardies or minor rule infractions such as gum chewing. Students who exceed their allotment of “oops!” passes will be required to serve after-school detentions. And remember, as members of the Aspen Creek K-8 community, we pledge to be peacemakers and problem-solvers; work hard at learning; and respect self, others, and the environment.

Thank You,

Shawn Flynn, Jodie Fransen, Mark Haxton,
Anne Millar, Andy Hampton, Clinton Johnston and Angie Nelson

Eighth Grade Methods of Communication 2011-12

Infinite Campus / Parent Portal

Updated each Tuesday --may be accessed via internet (www.bvdsd.org then click on "Parent/Student Portal")

Student Planners

Kept by students and checked by teachers / parents

E-Mail Addresses

Shawn Flynn - Science

shawn.flynn@bvdsd.org

Jodie Fransen - Lang. Arts

jodie.fransen@bvdsd.org

Mark Haxton - U.S.Society

mark.haxton@bvdsd.org

Angie Nelson - Math

Angela.nelson@bvdsd.org

Clint Johnston- Learning Specialist

clint.johnston@bvdsd.org

Eighth Grade Web Site

<http://bvdsd.org/schools/aspencreek/academics/8/Pages/default.aspx>.

Team email

Sent out as needed

Grade Reports

Sent home every six weeks

Missing Assignment Emails

Sent home each week

School Newsletter

Sent home monthly & available online (Aspen Creek Webpage)

Robin Sackman, Counselor

720-561-8010

Teacher Phone Calls

Main Office / Voice Mail:
720-561-8000