

Academic Assistance (ACA)

**Mr. Darin Halkowski
Room A104**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a year-long, two credit course designed for students who receive the majority of their instruction in the general education curriculum. Instruction includes learning strategies necessary to be successful in the general education curriculum. Learning strategies are techniques, rules or principles that enable a student to learn to solve problems, complete tasks and become independent learners. Strategies may include, but not limited to, goal setting, outlining, paraphrasing, organization, and test taking.

COMMENT: This course is offered on a pass/fail graded option only.

ALIGNMENT TO THE IOWA CORE CURRICULUM:

- **Ways of thinking.** Creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making and learning.
- **Ways of working.** Communication and collaboration.
- **Tools for working.** Information and communications technology (ICT) and information literacy.
- **Skills for living in the world.** Citizenship, life and career, and personal and social responsibility.

Putting Concepts Into Practice:

- **Collaborative problem-solving.** Working together to solve a common challenge, which involves the contribution and exchange of ideas, knowledge or resources to achieve the goal.
- **ICT literacy - learning in digital networks.** Learning through digital means, such as social networking, ICT literacy, technological awareness and simulation. Each of these elements enables individuals to function in social networks and contribute to the development of social and intellectual capital.

ASSESSMENTS:

Probes: IEP goal oriented assessments will be administered every two weeks.

General classroom activities: Curriculum support.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

Instructional strategies that will be used in this course, but are not limited to, include: direct instruction, active participation, graphic organizers, presentation, cooperative learning, advanced organizers, probing questions, questioning strategies, technology, note taking, and modeling.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Assignment notebook (agenda).

Pen and pencil (with an eraser – because we all make mistakes).

An organizational system (Keep your materials organized and available).

RESOURCES:

Helping each other is strongly encouraged. Copying is not. You will find that you can learn a lot from each other. Your ACA class is designed to assist you with understanding subject material and completing assignments. Other resources available include:

- Computer labs
- Math labs
- A111 (Special Education Resource Room)

- Guidance office (tutoring available)
- F.A.S.T. (Friday Academic Support Time) offered every Friday in Senior’s library from 7:30-8:30 a.m. for academic support. It is for *quiet* study time with one-on-one assistance available from a paraprofessional.
- Students can also make an appointment for assistance either before or after school with their teachers.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

- Students are expected to come to class on time and with all appropriate materials.
- Students are expected to behave as respectful and responsible young adults.
- Should a problem arise, I may need to contact parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or seek assistance from the office.
- Classrooms are a “No Food Zone” except if initiated by the teacher for specific organized celebrations. Water is only acceptable beverage as well.

Cheating on anything will not be tolerated. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, a score of zero on your work, contacting your parent(s)/ guardian(s) and/or Assistant Principal, or an F in the course.

TARDINESS AND ABSENCES:

Please be in your seat before the bell rings. Refer to Dubuque Senior High School Tardy/Attendance Policy (found in the student handbook/agenda). If late, the student will need to come with a pass to exempt their tardiness. Student must have their own school agenda with them and filled out in order to leave the classroom as a pass and get permission first before leaving.

GRADING:

Since you are learning different strategies to be successful in the general education setting and skills to prepare you for transition after high school your grade will be primarily based on participation. The following is a breakdown of the grade:

- Weekly points for participation, being on-task, having materials, behavior, and being on time
- Power School grade checks
- Binder/homework assignment checks
- Reading/writing probes
- Class assignments

Students need to achieve a 75% or better to pass this class. This class is based on a P (pass)/F (fail) grade.

COMMUNICATION:

Communication is vital; any problem can be solved if proper lines of communication are kept open. The best way to contact me with any questions or concerns is via email (maraeipour@dbqschools.org).

Students and parents are highly encouraged to check progress through PowerSchool: <https://ps-dubuque.gwaea.org/public/> on a regular basis.

My Phone: (563) 552-5652 or my room number is 563-552-5451

My E-mail: dhalkowski@dbqschools.org

***By signing below I have read and understood the information above and asked questions to the teacher if needed to clarify anything in its contents.**

Student _____
Date _____

Parent _____
Date _____