

Resource 11

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a year-long, 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 to support content comprehension, written expression, study skills and organization are taught and reinforced in this class. Academic achievement will be monitored and assistance in coursework will be provided. Transition skills for job/career exploration will also be a part of this course. The student will focus on developing skills needed to maintain independence in the general education curriculum, and work towards the goal of earning high school credits.

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.

DISTRICT STANDARDS AND BENCHMARKS

This course addresses the following DCSD Benchmark Standards.

- Guidance and Counseling, Academic Development #1: Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning on school and across the life span.
- Guidance and Counseling, Academic Development #2: Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of post-secondary options.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- **RAM CORE VALUES:** Respect, engagement, integrity
- No food or drink allowed in the classroom (except water)
- Do your best, and try your hardest!
- Come to class prepared with all appropriate materials
- Cellphone use is not allowed during direct instruction (and at discretion of teacher)

SUPPLIES

Assignment notebook (agenda) Keep your notes neat and organized

A pencil (with an eraser – because we all make mistakes)

A binder (stays in the classroom) Keep your activities organized

Course work (Assignments from Algebra I, U.S. History, and Physical Science)

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Instructional strategies that will be used in this course, but are not limited to, are: direct instruction, active participation, graphic organizers, presentation, cooperative learning, advanced organizers, probing questions, questioning strategies, student projects, technology, note taking, service learning, Project-Based Learning, and teacher/student modeling.

ASSESSMENTS

Probes – IEP goal oriented assessments will be administered every two weeks

General classroom activities- Curriculum support

TARDINESS AND ABSENCES

Refer to Senior High school Attendance Policy (found in the student handbook/agenda).

GETTING HELP

Working together 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 are:

- Computer labs
- Math labs
- Guidance office (provides tutors)
- A-111 Special Education resource Room
- FAST Program- Friday morning academic support

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

I expect you to behave as the responsible student that you are. Should a problem arise I may contact your parents and/or pursue assistance from the office.

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

COMMUNICATION

The best way to get ahold of me is via email at cmccarthy@dbqschools.org You may also reach me by school phone at 563-552-5652. Messages left will be returned as soon as possible.
