

3 Tips for Success in High School

Freshman Fair Parent Orientation 2017

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Tip #1: Be Prepared

Be Prepared: Immunizations & Physical

In order to register for school in August, students MUST HAVE:

1. An up-to-date immunization record that includes **either** proof of 2 doses of varicella vaccine (chickenpox) or written proof of having had chickenpox from the student's medical provider.
2. A school physical, which can be completed at the AJ Health Center OR with your student's medical provider.

Your student will not be able to complete registration in August (tentatively set for August 3rd) if you do not provide a complete and up-to-date immunization record and evidence of a school physical.

An appointment for a school physical at a later date DOES NOT COUNT.

See the Health Center information sheet in your welcome packet and/or their table in the gym for more information.

Be Prepared: Dress Code

Before you do your shopping, make sure your student's school clothes meet dress code requirements.

A full explanation of the dress code can be found in the AJCHS Student Handbook.

Major dress code highlights:

No yoga pants, leggings, or pajamas

Shorts must be within 2 in of the knees

Skirts and dresses must be knee length

Shirts must have sleeves and cover cleavage

Clothes may not have inappropriate slogans or logos (alcohol, drugs, violence, innuendos, etc)

Be Prepared: Know What to Expect

Congratulations! By being here tonight, you will already get a good preview of what to expect in high school. To make best use of your time, we advise you to:

1. Pick up your welcome packet, if you have not done so already (located in the UH Lobby)
2. Look over your schedule and visit your teachers (UH Gym). Introduce yourself and ask questions, such as
 - a. What supplies will I need?
 - b. What are your expectations?
 - c. What will I learn in your class?
 - d. What advice do you have for success in your class?

Be Prepared: Know What to Expect, Cont.

3. Get information about the Health Center and visit the Extracurricular tables. Getting involved in extracurriculars is an excellent way to meet people and feel a part of the school, as well as build a résumé for college or future careers.
4. Take the building tour provided by the National Honor Society. Ask your tour leaders questions you might not ask a teacher, like
 - a. Just how exactly am I supposed to fit all my stuff in my locker?
 - b. What is high school like?
 - c. Other social questions that a student might be more likely to know :-)

Be Prepared: Begin Looking Towards the Future Now!

Although graduation may seem far away, decisions that your students have already made for their freshman year have affected their options. It is time to start planning for your student's post-graduation plans. We advise you to

1. Stop by Mrs. McLean Miller's table to get information on graduation requirements, university requirements, and the services her office provides.
2. Discuss with your student his or her goals for after high school. Look over his or her freshman schedule and determine whether changes need to be made.

Tip #2: Be Here

Be Here: Attendance Is Vital!

Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.*

By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10% of the school year, or as few as 2 days per month, and it makes no difference whether those absences are excused.*

2017 seniors in danger of not graduating due to failures missed an average of 5.5 days this year and 23.5 days over the course of all four years.

*<http://www.attendanceworks.org/facts-stats-school-attendance/>

Be Here: Take Advantage of Opportunities Provided

Students who see the most success in high school are those that take advantage of all opportunities.

Study Hall: Required for all freshmen. This is an excellent time to complete homework and study for tests.

Homeroom: 26 minutes at the end of the day T-F where students can do homework, study, and get help from teachers.

Math Lab: Offered Tuesdays and Thursdays in Mrs. Denny's room during homeroom. Anyone can attend.

Writing Lab: Offered Fridays in Mrs. Houseman's room during homeroom. Anyone can attend to get help on essays.

Khan Academy: We encourage students to create a free College Board account which allows them to access Khan Academy. See school website for details.

Be Here: Attending Events

We host informational events at various times throughout the year. While these events are often not mandatory, they are good opportunities to gather information on a variety of topics.

We recognize student achievement during our May Awards Night. Support your student by attending. We also host a variety of athletic events, fundraising events, and a school play each year. Your participation/attendance supports our school and community.

Freshman Fair

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Workshops

Senior Parent Information Night (SPIN)

Award Ceremonies

Athletics

School Play

Tip #3: Be Involved

Be Involved: Use Your TeacherEase Account

Stay on top of your student's grades, attendance, and lunch account by learning to use and regularly checking TeacherEase (link on the homepage of the school website).

You will receive a TeacherEase account when you register in August. If for some reason your account does not seem to be working properly, contact the Principal's office for help.

Be Involved: Use Your TeacherEase Account, cont.

Students, you should be using your TeacherEase account as well! While we all want you to succeed, the only person who can give your educational success their undivided attention is YOU. Take responsibility for your future by checking your grades, staying on top of your assignments, and making sure you meet the criteria for graduation and your future plans.

Be Involved: Communicate with Teachers

Your student's teachers may email or call you when they have concerns about your student, but you may also email or call your student's teachers at any time.

On that note, it's important to provide the school with your current address, phone number, and email so that we can notify you of important information, and to update us when your contact information changes.

Many times, teachers reach out to parents and receive no response. For students to be successful, all parties must communicate.

Attending Parent-Teacher Conferences is an excellent way to meet your student's teachers and discuss concerns, successes, and progress. Mrs. McLean Miller is also available for meetings.

Be Involved: School Information

School website: www.aj81.net

Important dates

Contact information

Extracurricular information

Scholarship information

School handbook

Course Catalog

Important Dates:

Registration - Tentatively [August 3rd](#).

Attendance tonight does NOT count as registration. You will receive information in the mail about registration in July. Again, please make sure you provide us with your CORRECT contact information tonight.

First day of school - [August 18th](#)

Course and department information is available at the tables in the Union Hall Gym tonight, as well as on our website under “Course Catalog.”