



2017/2018 Winter/Spring Newsletter

Important Dates:

http://www.relevantacademy.org/downloads/website_files/2017-18_academic_calendar.pdf

Staff Members:

- Executive Director **Jennifer Varney**
- Office Manager **April Delecki**
- Team Leader **Loretta Williams**
- Learning Coach **Rose Ison-Edgington (English LA)**
- Learning Coach **Lauren Zoumbaris (Social Studies)**
- Learning Coach **Brian Barden (Math)**
- Learning Coach **Andrew Fergus (Science)**
- After Hours Only Learning Coach **Elisabeth Welfare (Art)**
- After Hours Only Learning Coach **Khati Brazee (Health/PE)**
- Special Education Consultant **Pat Moffitt**





Throughout this school year, learning coaches have attended and participated in a professional development course called Reading Apprenticeship Across the Disciplines (RAAD). RAAD has presented Relevant Academy learning coaches with several strategies to engage with students who might need more help with reading comprehension.

Some of the strategies taught in RAAD include creating norms, talk to the text, and think alouds. Creating norms allows students to voice their expectations in a classroom environment. These expectations are recorded to a degree that everyone can agree with and are used to help with classroom management throughout the year. Talking to the text is a note taking process where a student marks the reading passage with annotations. This allows students to be aware of their reading process and to better digest the text. Think alouds are when a teacher or student vocalize their thought process as they read a text, modeling how an effective reader thinks while reading.

These are just some of the strategies that learning coaches have been exposed to in the duration of the RAAD professional development. RAAD is ongoing through the end of the school year. The first half learning coaches met to discuss how it might be implemented in our school. The last half will be focused more on the implementation process of the skills learned from RAAD.



Testing Updates 2017-2018 School year

Lauren Zoumbaris - Social Studies Learning Coach/Testing Coordinator

Brian Barden - Math Learning Coach



Juniors at Relevant Academy took the PSAT/NMSQT in October. Scores have become available and students will be working on SAT prep as part of the Career and College course.

To further help our students prepare for the SAT students will be linking their PSAT scores to Khan Academy test prep. Khan Academy is a free, online resource that offers video tutorials on a wide variety of subjects, including SAT prep. Khan Academy will use your student's' PSAT scores to give them personalized study recommendations for the SAT. If students don't have PSAT scores to upload, then they can still get their personalized study recommendations by taking diagnostic quizzes. Find out more at www.khanacademy.org/SAT .



Two assignments in the Career and College course revolve around test taking tips and strategies for succeeding on the two Math portions of the test; Math with Calculator and Math no Calculator. Student's taking the SAT have access to this information and can share those assignments with you. We encourage you and your student to look carefully at these SAT Prep assignments, having some strategies as how to approach the questions, students are able to improve their SAT scores, even if Math is a subject they struggle in.

A couple things that might also be beneficial to discuss with your student is how giving their best effort on the SAT impacts them. Doing well on the SAT can mean the difference between getting into a college of their choice, and scholarship money that may be available. Even if a student does not plan on attending college right now, seeing that they can do well on the SAT may have them rethink that plan and give college (or any sort of technical/vocational program) a second consideration.

For students, it is sometimes difficult to connect the importance of the SAT to the work they do on a daily basis. The more we remind them as adults the importance of it (and make it important ourselves), the more ownership they will take in succeeding on it.

Spring 2018 Testing will include the SAT, WorkKeys, and M-STEP to begin the week of April 9th, 2018.

College and Career Updates

Douglas J Aveda Institute tour

Relevant Academy College Visit

On Tuesday, February 20, students from Relevant Academy of Eaton County visited the Douglas J Aveda Institute in East Lansing, MI. This was a very beneficial experience for these students and it is one of many ways that Relevant Academy continues to build a college-going culture among its population.

Students were given a tour of the entire facility followed by a presentation on the history and vision of their programs. This session included a breakdown of their cosmetology and esthiology programs, financial aid information, and an overview of the many career paths students can pursue after completing their studies.

The Douglas J Aveda Institute in East Lansing has an enrollment of around 200 students with program pathways in cosmetology and esthiology. Their programs last between 600-1,500 hours and can be completed in less than a year.



Our next college visit is being planned for May to Baker College of Owosso.

Spring Learner Success Meetings

Spring Learner Success meetings are currently scheduled for March 27th at 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and then again on March 29th at 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. This is a great time to sit down one on one with mentors to review academic plans and progress. If you cannot attend one of these sessions, please feel free to call your student's mentor directly.