

DeSana Middle School

**Additional Oppportunity to Learn Time**

***AOL Time***

The philosophy behind AOL time is to give our middle school students *the gift of time during the school day* in order for them to have the time they need for extra help . . . for relearning concepts and skills that they have not mastered, as shown on an assessment of some sort . . . to review concepts before an upcoming summative assessment . . . and to have some additional time with a teacher in a smaller setting to ask questions about the concepts they are having difficulty with. With these needs in mind, we have created a time during the day when kids may get some extra help for their core academic classes; hence an additional opportunity to learn. **Every core academic teacher** (Math, ELA, SS, SCI & Spanish, along with Special Ed and ESOL teachers) will plan ahead of time what they will review/re-teach/prep students for/help students with during each AOL time, and announce it to their students at least a day in advance, if not sooner.

AOL Time will happen every Thursday for 45 minutes (9:05 – 9:50), **beginning on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester and beginning on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester**. AOL time will also occur on some Wednesdays throughout the year, approximately one Wednesday every four (4) weeks. Thus, during some weeks, students will have two (2) AOL time opportunities to take advantage of.

At 9:00, all students should be in their Dragon Time class, getting organized for where they will go during AOL time, while their teacher takes attendance. When the 9:05 bell rings on AOL days, students have a few options of where they may go and what they may do. These are the *only options available* to them:

- Go to one of their 4 core academic teachers --- Math, ELA, SCI, SS (one of their 5 core academic teachers in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, counting Spanish) --- for some extra help/re-teaching/ review for an upcoming assessment. AOL is ***not*** a time for doing assessment retakes. Students must have an AOL pass from that teacher to go to one of their 4/5 core teachers. They should ask for the pass before AOL time.
- If a student does not need to go to a teacher for some extra help/re-teaching/review for an upcoming assessment, then he/she may go to the *cafeteria* to either read quietly for that time or work *independently* on assignments. Students must also have a pass to go to the cafeteria; they should ask their Dragon Time teacher for this pass.
- If a student needs to go to a computer lab to work on some review or re-teaching packets on the computer OR work on itslearning OR work on a project that they

need a computer for, each grade level has been assigned a teacher-supervised computer lab that students may go to. Students should ask their core academic teacher or Dragon Time teacher ahead of time for one of these passes. There are a limited number of Computer Lab passes per AOL time since there are a limited number of computers in each lab.

- If a Connections teacher is offering an AOL time, then a student in that teacher's class may opt to go and work on a project in that Connections class IF he/she does not need any extra help in a core academic class. Connections teachers do not offer AOL time every time.
- If a student wants to work on a project with another student or two, then that group of students must approach the teacher for whom they are doing the project to see if they may work quietly in his/her room while he/she works with other students who have come for help. This option is entirely up to each teacher.
- Students may not stay in their Dragon Time teacher's room if they do not need to go anywhere for extra help. They must go to either the cafeteria OR go to their designated Computer Lab to work productively.

Parents can help us and their young Dragon tremendously by encouraging them to attend AOL time as often as they need the extra help. On the night before a Wednesday or Thursday AOL time, or the morning of, discuss and plan with your young teen where he/she needs to go for AOL time that week. Then, as a follow-up that evening of an AOL day, discuss with your adolescent where he/she went and what help he/she received, as well as what help he/she still needs. Help your young Dragon understand how valuable this *gift of time* is to their success this year in middle school.

Below are the dates AOL time will occur this year:

### **Wednesdays**

**August none**  
**September 12**  
**October 10**  
**November 7**  
**December 12**  
**January 30**  
**February 27**  
**March 20**  
**April none**  
**May none**

### **Thursdays**

**August 23 & 30**  
**September 6, 13 & 20**  
**October 4, 11 & 25**  
**November 1, 8, 15 & 29**  
**December 6 & 13**  
**January 17, 24 & 31**  
**February 7, 14, 21 & 28**  
**March 7, 14, 21 & 28**  
**April none**  
**May 2, 9 & 16**