

Dragon Time at DeSana

Every student at DeSana is placed in a Dragon Time class which they attend four times per week. Dragon Time meets on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:00 to 9:15. In some ways, Dragon Time may seem like a homeroom class; however, it is much more. Dragon Time is a fantastic opportunity to meet the unique needs of the middle school student.

During Dragon Time, students are in a smaller size class. As a result, this time serves as an advisor/advisee time, where teachers have the opportunity to get to know a smaller group of students much better and can serve as an advisor and advocate for them in all kinds of matters. Teachers will take advantage of this opportunity to discuss a variety of topics with students throughout the year that will assist them in their middle school adventure. Some of these sessions will be related to developing positive and strong social-emotional competencies, while others will focus on the *Work Habits* that students are assessed on and parents will see on the middle school nine-week *Progress Reports* and *Report Cards* at the end of each semester.

On two Wednesdays a month, students will remain in their Dragon Time class for an extended period of time . . . until 9:50. During this time, teachers will lead group discussions and activities designed to help students develop and grow important social-emotional competencies --- such as recognizing strengths, having a growth mindset, self-confidence, goal setting, self-discipline, solving problems, ethical responsibility, relationship building, teamwork, empathy, and respect for others, just to name a few.

In addition to participating in these important discussions and activities about *Work Habits* and growing social-emotional competencies that will serve them well throughout life, students may also make sure they are in the know by listening to the morning announcements each and every day during Dragon Time. There are numerous clubs and activities at DeSana, and the announcements are the main source of communicating this information to students; therefore, it pays to listen!

Once the announcements are finished, on some days, students will have some time to seek help from their teacher(s) or peers, study, get organized for the day, check their grades on Parent Portal or read. Even though the period is only fifteen minutes long on most days, it is a wonderful opportunity for students to clarify misunderstandings or receive needed help and support in their academic classes. It may seem like a short amount of time, but when you add up 15 minutes of extra time to seek help with one's studies from teachers or peers three or four times a week, that quickly begins to become a good amount of time for quality preparation and learning over the course of the school year.

Finally, as special events and activities are planned throughout the year, and/or topics of discussion regarding procedures and practices at DeSana come up, Dragon Time will be an excellent time for teachers to make sure that all of our students are in the know.

As you can see, Dragon Time is more than just a homeroom. It is one more opportunity dedicated to making your student's time at DeSana quite successful!