

Hamilton Middle School Community Agreement

We, at Hamilton Middle School, are dedicated to the vision of empowering our students with the character, competence, and confidence needed to overcome the challenges faced in achieving positive outcomes. This document outlines for the other members of the Hamilton community - students, parents, and business/community members - the ways in which we are committed to our students, as well as the different roles they have in partnering with us to ensure the best possible opportunities for Hamilton Middle School students.

Confidence

Staff - We will establish safety, a sense of belonging, and a growth mindset as components of our campus environment. We will reinforce the importance of kindness, hard work, good habits, and teach students how to work through thoughts and feelings that might prevent them from giving their best effort. We will host fun student and family activities on campus that foster friendship within our community.

Students - Consistently attend school, despite moments of apprehension. Act with the belief that ability is not fixed, and hard work can grow personal capacity and achievement. Learn that one doesn't need to feel motivated to do what needs to be done.

Parents - Support the value of quality first-time instruction by encouraging their children to attend school and be on time daily. Assume the best intentions of Hamilton staff in the education of their children. If they hear something that causes concern, contact the teacher or other professional staff to gather all available information before forming a conclusion. Place the focus of conversations with their children on effort. Take each challenge their children face at school, whether it's a bad interaction with someone else or a low grade, and talk through how their child can actively participate in improving the situation to help create a positive outcome.

Business/Community Members - As time and finances allow, provide support in the form of mentorship for students and partnerships (funds/goods/services) as encouragement for students and staff.

Competence

Staff - Focus will be placed on individual academic progress instead of comparing students to each other. To ensure the best student learning outcomes, Hamilton staff will meet weekly to create engaging lesson plans, use research-based instructional strategies during class, give timely feedback to students, and be willing to change classroom practices based on sound research and student learning outcomes.

Students - Actively participate in class, including asking questions when they are unsure. Complete and submit assignments on time. Attend tutorials when they don't understand and study daily at home.

Parents - Check Home Access Center daily after dinner. Acknowledge their child's effort when all assignments are completed, and help their child create a plan to make up any missing assignments. Help their children develop a study schedule ahead of tests. Limit their time with electronics until all missing assignments are turned in.

Character

Staff - We will teach and reinforce appropriate social skills and self-management that will help students achieve proper connections with others. Students will be held accountable for behavioral expectations as positive and negative consequences are an important part of learning.

Students - See value in and treat each person with respect. Follow the behavioral expectations of the Code of Conduct and campus. Learn that appropriate connections with others starts with themselves and their ability to manage their own behavior despite self-defeating thoughts and feelings.

Parents - Model respectful behavior for their children at sporting events and during all interactions with Hamilton staff. Ask their children questions about what they're learning at school in regards to proper treatment of others and self-control, and contribute to the teaching of those lessons. Allow students the opportunity to learn from the natural consequences of their own behavior.