

Making the Transition to William H. Spencer High School



A Student/Parent Guide

Home of the Greenwave

Introduction:

We look forward to meeting and working with the new ninth grade class at Spencer High School! During the next four years we will work together to help you stretch your thinking, develop your study skills, and grow into outstanding students...ready to meet the challenges of high school. We want this to be a shared journey toward academic, social and physical excellence that prepares you to be life-long learners IN THE YEAR 2021 AND BEYOND!



Who We Are:

The transition from middle school to high school is an important one. While students and parents are sometimes worried about this transition, we find that with the right support, encouragement, and attention, students (and parents/caregivers) thrive at Spencer. As some of you may already know, the high school years are some of the most exciting, challenging, and (above all else) interesting for our children. These years are some of the most important in terms of growth and development. As with any type of development, there can sometimes be growing pains. By having supportive parents/caregivers, our children will finish these years stronger academically, socially, and emotionally. As a school, we look forward to working together as a team in helping our children get the most out of their high school years.

The Guidance Team

Guidance Director – Dr. Michele Sanchez

Counselor – Ms. Myya Washington

Counselor – Mrs. LaJoyce Cavalier

Student Expectations:

- We expect students to report to class on time with appropriate materials and to contribute to a positive learning atmosphere.
- It is the student's responsibility to contact a classmate or arrange with his/her teachers to make up missed assignments due to absences.
- It is the student's responsibility to follow school dress-code. (Dress-Code explained in Student Handbook)
- Each student is responsible for using the school's computer technology and internet access in an ethical, responsible, and legal manner for school-related tasks only.
- Students are expected to remove trays and trash from their cafeteria tables.

- Each student is responsible for school property and maintaining school equipment and supplies.
- Book bags are not allowed to be worn in the building.
 - Hats cannot be worn inside the building, unless approved by Administration for medical reasons.
- Respect people.

9th grade Courses:

- Ninth Grade Lit/Comp or Honors Ninth Grade Lit
- Alg. I
- Environmental Science
- American Govt./Civics
- PE/Health
- Elective
- CTAE elective (Pathways to choose from - Healthcare Science, Automotive, JROTC, Business Technology, Computer Technology, Marketing, Athletics, Music, Chorus, Band and Art)

PARENT TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL START:

- Sign up for Parent Portal. Grades and student attendance are always viewable online with this website.
- Encourage your child to participate in clubs/activities.
- If you wish to purchase a locker for your child when school starts, buy a combination lock for your child and have them learn how to use it before the school year begins. Practice using the lock over the summer to familiarize how the lock works. (Locks will be available for purchase during the school year. The combination code will be provided at that time to the student.)
- Create a consistent supervised study time for your child. Establish a study area that can be monitored.
- Encourage your child to ask for extra help when needed.
- Check in periodically about your child's progress.
- Allow your child to gain a sense of independence and responsibility.
- Encourage your child to practice good hygiene.
- Have your child "pack" up for school before going to bed. It will make things easier in the morning.
- Stay in communication with your child's teachers through phone, email, and your child's agenda.
- Finally, DON'T forget that your child is young and there will be bumps in the road. Mistakes will be made-- but it's all a part of the learning process.

ESTABLISH A STUDY TIME:

- Discuss and establish with your child the time of day/evening that will be set aside for homework. Late afternoon and early evening are the best times. The time should be consistent each day and supervised by an adult if possible.
- Decide with your child where he/she will study. Establish a comfortable place with few distractions. It should have good lighting and be away from outside noises and disturbances. It needs to be a television/telephone free time.
- Do not allow this study time to be the source of a power struggle. Make it clear that school is your child's responsibility.
- Once study time is completed, allow your child the opportunity to enjoy leisure activities.



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD TO BE SUCCESSFUL:

- Ask your child to find a “study buddy” for each of their classes who will collect work when your child is absent and with whom they can review notes, study, and share information.
- Encourage your child to participate in class discussions and ask questions. If they are uncomfortable asking questions during the class, encourage them to see the teacher at the end of the period or after school.
- Don't hesitate to contact your child's teachers or the school counselor with any questions that you have regarding your child's adjustment and progress in school.

SUPPLIES:

The school supplies needed for Spencer are not much different than what students used in eighth grade. Here are some of the basic supplies your child may need:

- Several pencils and pens
- A STURDY 3-ring binder
- Wide-ruled loose-leaf paper

A supply list will be posted on the school website.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP:

Making the switch to high school is EXCITING, but a little SCARY at the same time...IT'S A BIG SWITCH! There are a lot of people to help you if you have questions or concerns:

- YOUR TEACHERS can answer many of your questions about how things work at Spencer or who to go to for help. Any teacher can help you if you are having problems.



- YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS, Dr. Sanchez, Ms. Washington and Mrs. Cavalier are here to help you get adjusted to high school. You may make an appointment to see your counselor with your teachers or through the Guidance Office.
- YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, Dr. Freeman (Principal), Ms. Patterson (Assistant Principal), and Dr. Cook (Assistant Principal) can also talk to you about concerns you have. They also like to hear about good ideas you might have for Spencer High School.

REMEMBER, WE ARE ALL HERE TO HELP. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, AND WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR TIME AT SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL!

