COMMUNICATION

Communication between parents, students and the school is critical in supporting students in their learning journey and to ensure that students are setting realistic and attainable goals.

If you have any concerns or you want to discuss your student’s achievement at school please contact their Learning Studies teacher. Alternatively there are a range of other staff in the school who can assist.

Bronte Nicholls — Director, Pedagogical Innovation
Karla Pobke — Coordinator, Learning Studies
Lauren George — Red Team Learning Studies Leader
Amanda Watkin — Gold Team Learning Studies Leader
Penny Collins — Blue Team Learning Studies Leader
Caroline Dean — Green Team Learning Studies Leader
Kate Smith — EALD Coordinator
Lisa Pope — Year 12 Coordinator

ACHIEVEMENT SHOULD NOT DEFINE A PERSON

Achievement at school should not be viewed as a measure that defines someone’s value as a person, self worth or determines how much they should be loved.

Resources:
ASMS Student Wellbeing Page
Parenting Courses

LOCATION

CONTACT

Australian Science and Mathematics School
Carpark 18
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South Australian Department for Education and Child Development trading as South Australia Government Schools, CRICOS Provider Number 00018A

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS?
A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

www.asms.sa.edu.au
Being a teenager is a challenging time with many demands and expectations. Achieving at school is one such demand. For most students achievement at school has a favorable outcome and students are able to continue in their desired pathway, however for other students this may not be the case.

Reasons for negative outcomes may include
- Poor subject choices
- Low motivation
- Poor study behaviours
- Unrealistic expectations of achievement from themselves or from families
- Physical or mental health issues

POOR DECISION MAKING
All teenagers make choices and whilst as parents and teachers we can try and support students in making positive choices ultimately some students will still make poor choices. For some students it is important that they actually experience the consequences of their poor choices so they can learn that as adults there is not always someone there to ‘rescue’ them.

MOTIVATION
Motivation is a critical issue that most students face at different times throughout the year. Lack of motivation can be caused by a range of interrelated factors. One of the common factors is that students lose motivation because they don’t feel they can live up to the expectations they have set for themselves or that other people have of them. Motivation is an internal construct and as a result the student is the only one who is responsible and can actively change motivation.

THE LEARNING JOURNEY...
At the ASMS one of our aims is for students to focus on the process of learning as much as the product of that learning. As a result good or bad grades don’t necessarily tell the whole story about someone. At the ASMS we believe that education is very important and we need to develop a love of learning in students. We do recognize that all students are different and that not everyone is going to learn in the same way or achieve to a high standard. It is important for students to understand themselves as learners and set realistic and achievable goals for themselves. It is important as parents and teachers that we don’t set these expectations or goals for them. Otherwise we are going to burden them with always having to reach a certain standard that in some cases may be unobtainable for them at a certain point in their learning journey.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS
Unrealistic expectations are standards or goals that an individual has that are beyond their current readiness or capabilities. For some students the unrealistic expectations come from within. For other students unrealistic expectations can come from family, friends or teachers. Wherever these expectations are coming from they lead to quite negative outcomes for students.

Negative outcomes
- Low self worth
- Mental, emotional and physical wellbeing compromised
- Refusal to attempt work for fear of not meeting unrealistic standard
- Perception that they are a failure and are disappointing others
- Academic failure

STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS
- Always remember all children are different and have their own capabilities. Your expectations should be realistic and achievable.
- Don’t place great emphasis on one particular task—e.g. An exam. This will lead to panic and anxiety for the students, affecting their result.
- Support students through the learning process and focus on what can be changed during the learning process rather than focusing on achievement or outcome.
- Support students during times of failure or underachievement.
- Support the development of a strong sense of self-worth, self-discipline, and sense of achievement regardless of outcome.
- Do not focus on single assessment results—look at the big picture.

OPTIONS
Unlike when most of us went to school the options available for education these days are enormous. This includes a range of ways to complete SACE and a range of ways to receive entry into University and/or TAFE and further education. It is important that parents support students in choosing a pathway that is appropriate for their current readiness and capabilities so that we are not setting students up for failure with unrealistic expectations. Students should be choosing subjects that they have a passion for and that directly relate to their pathway.