

# Will My Child Be Successful at Chaparral Star Academy?

Chaparral Star Academy was founded with a particular type of student in mind. The school was founded for students who had time-intensive extracurricular activities, such as gymnastics, hockey, figure skating, acting or any other activity on which the student wanted to focus. However, being such self-motivated students, they did not want to hinder their educational opportunities. How could they attend a rigorous, college-preparatory school without sacrificing necessary time toward their extracurricular endeavors?

Chaparral Star Academy presented a solution by creating a 4-hour school day, leaving homework time to the flexibility of their schedule. The students who are the most successful under our model have the following characteristics:

- Self-Motivation
- Self-Discipline
- Desire to Work Hard
- Strong Time Management Skills

A trend we have witnessed is that previous students who had C's and low B's at their previous, traditional school find it difficult to adjust and succeed under the Chaparral Star Academy model (especially those who transfer mid-year).

The amazing opportunities afforded at Chaparral Star Academy come with great responsibility. Chaparral Star Academy maintains two fundamental policies that seem to hinder the success of some students who view our school as an "easy day" (students think "I only have to go to school for 4 hours? Awesome!").

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** All students must attend school for 90% of the school year, or they lose credit. Considering that the curriculum is accelerated **AND** compacted, a student can easily fall behind by missing just one day. For more information, please visit <http://chaparralstaracademy.com/attendance/>.

**HOMEWORK POLICY:** Considering that the curriculum is accelerated **AND** compacted, homework plays a crucial role in the learning process. As a result, Chaparral Star Academy views missing homework as a discipline issue. In fact, late homework isn't accepted in the high school, resulting in student receiving a zero (0) for his/her grade. For more information, please visit <http://chaparralstaracademy.com/homework/>.

Additionally, given the time constraint of the schedule, there is no afterschool tutoring offered. Generally, outside of the classroom support falls on the responsibility of the student and/or parent.

## HOW MUCH HOMEWORK IS THERE AT CSA?

Often, we get the question, "how many hours of homework will my child have at night?" and it is a difficult question to answer. To ensure quality instruction during a compacted 40-minute class, a lot of in-class homework time is limited, leading to increased homework when compared to surrounding public schools. Depending on the individual strengths of a student, the overall amount of homework varies. For example, a strong math student isn't going to take as long on his/her math homework as someone who is stronger in social studies and vice versa. Meanwhile, a student who is efficient with his/her time may be able to accomplish all of his/her homework in a shorter amount of time than someone else.

Overall, we have noticed a trend that CSA students **spend more time on homework** than at traditional surrounding schools on average. Students with **strong time management skills** are most successful under our model.