



Upcoming Events

- January 20 - Early Release - 12:00/12:15/12:30/12:45 **AM kindergarten attends**
- January 24 - Parent Shurley training 7:00 - 7:45 pm
- January 28 - Jeans Day
- January 31 - Spelling Bee 4th - 6th grades 1:00-3:00 pm
- February 2 - Spelling Bee 1st - 3rd grades 12:30-2:00 pm
- February 4 - Spirit Wear Day
- February 11 - Early Release - 12:00/12:15/12:30/12:45 **PM kindergarten attends**
- February 11 - Jeans Day
- February 21 - 25 - Mid Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

I am a builder when I work diligently.

One of the biggest deterrents to working diligently is wasting time. When we look back on our day and how time passed –often we realize what could’ve been accomplished with that time. I know this is something that I experience. There are many ways to waste time, but one of the most common is by allowing ourselves to get distracted or discouraged about our tasks and assignments. The ease of turning on the TV, daydreaming, getting another drink of water, or texting with a friend often trumps the self-discipline required to do what requires thought and work.

So what can we do about it?

When the urge to roam hits, take a deep breath and be still while you refocus yourself by remembering your objective. After several deep breaths, move forward with a small step. For instance, if one of your assignments is to do online research, close all other windows that serve as a distraction and focus only on the task at hand.

Plan a certain time for your distractions and entertainment. Here at APA, we advocate no screens M-TH so that we can use time wisely for academic study, physical exercise, and other enriching pursuits. Plan to reward yourself for a week’s worth of hard work, by scheduling that video game or that movie on Friday or Saturday after your homework is complete.

Finally, review your goals. A clear picture of the time required to achieve these goals versus a realization of the amount of time you are tempted to waste will keep you on track for success.

The thing is once you get to work on a project, it is usually no longer drudgery...not if you are truly committed to achieving successful results. The key is to take the first step at exactly the moment when you are tempted to waste time elsewhere. I challenge you to try this week and see how diligent you can be. You may be surprised and pleased at what you can accomplish.

Classroom Bees - Happening Now

**Classroom spelling bees will be held January 18 - January 21. The Bees will be in the classroom when the class has the time set aside.

**Spelling Bees - 4th - 6th grades: Monday, January 31 - 1:00-3:00 pm

**Spelling Bees - 1st - 3rd grades: Tuesday, February 1 - 12:30-2:00 pm

January 3 - January 28 - Acadience Testing

All of our students will be participating in the Acadience testing - formerly DIEBELs testing - Monday, January 3rd through Friday, January 28th. This reading test will be administered in each classroom by the teacher.

January 24 - Parent Shurley Grammar Training

Here at APA, our 1st - 6th grade students learn Shurley Grammar. What exactly is Shurley Grammar? "Shurley Grammar is a unique tool, specifically designed to help students master the parts of speech and sentence structure. Students learn definitions for the parts of speech through jingles that incorporate rhythm, rhyme, movement, and fun. Then, they are introduced to our well-defined system of classifying sentences known as the Question and Answer Flow." To help our parents better understand this part of our curriculum, we will be offering a 45-minute workshop to teach parents how to do the "Shurley Question and Answer Flow" and to help you understand what your student is learning during their homeroom grammar time. Our final workshop is:

Monday, January 24, 7:00pm

This workshop will be taught by our academic coach, Jacquie Chappell. Come join us in the fun!

Reminder: Thursday, January 20 - Early Dismissal - Professional Development

AM Kindergarten students will attend this day

- Kindergarten students with no other D2 or D3 siblings will be released at 12:00 pm
- Yellow 12:15 pm
- Blue 12:30 pm
- Red 12:45 pm
- Buses will leave at 12:25 pm and arrive 3 hours earlier than usual. Bus schedules are posted here - <https://www.americanprep.org/bus-program/>
- Day Care Buses - please contact your provider to confirm arrangement